



news

## Why beef-war poncing was put to pasture

Last summer, in the second agonies of the agricultural crisis brought about by the feeding of demented sheep to healthy cows, the Government discovered two main culprits.

They were (in order of their sins), the "right honourable lady, the member for Peckham" (Harriet Harman) - who had betrayed Britain by saying that she wouldn't care to feed beef to her children - and the perfidious Continentals. The latter, you will remember, were supposedly forced into submission by the Government's policy of non-cooperation, which preceded the Inter-Governmental Conference in Florence. The ban, like previous wars, would be over by Christmas.



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Since then, ministers have fallen silent in the House. Until yesterday, when Labour helpfully tabled its own debate on the handling of the BSE crisis, and just as thoughtfully supplied Robin Cook to open it.

Malcolm Rifkind, author of the Government's strategy, was not present to defend his poli-

cies. Perhaps he felt that, having had a tiring Global Vision on Monday, it was only fair to let Agriculture Secretary Douglas Hogg be tortured to death by the Red Gnome of Livingsdon on Wednesday.

Mr Cook reminded the House that Mr Hogg had promised a lifting of the ban in "the back-end of the year". But, he asked, was December the back-end of the year? Or were we "looking down the front-end of another year?"

What had happened to the Policy Of Non-Cooperation in Europe (given the acronym of PONCE in the Foreign Office)? "A fitting term, given the posturing involved", he quipped. It had, of course been absurd -

isolating us completely and destroying the bonhomie of the Danes, the Anglophilic of the French and the solid good sense of the Greeks. "Previous governments - including Tory ones - have been sensible enough to ensure that either France or Prussia was on our side".

Mr Cook must know, however, that era has gone. There is nothing and nobody over the Channel that the governing party admires these days. If one of those aliens who keep on abducting Birmingham housewives and probing them scientifically, were to descend for a day or so and come to the Commons, he/she or it would soon have a very particular view of life *sur le Continent*.

There, unemployed beggars line the crumbling pavements to watch the bloated bureaucrats (whose social chapters and minimum wages have destroyed their jobs), travel meetings to discuss how to double-cross the British over something or other.

For instance, during Employment questions earlier, a minister had spoken of how the "French, Spaniards and Italians would be pathetically grateful" for part-time jobs, like those in Britain. We can expect the small boats, crammed to the gunwales with desperate Doms, to start arriving soon.

Europe did indeed figure

when a pale Mr Hogg made his reply, which he did in a curious posture, crouching over the

despatch box, leaving only a mad tuft of grey hair, two protruding arms, and the reflection from his spectacles to be seen above it.

But Mr Hogg was no longer scouring the EU, even when invited to do so by that cantankerous old xenophobe, John Townend (Con Bridlington). Mr Townend spoke of Britain "doublecrossed over beef", as over working hours", because they "enjoy taking British export markets". But no, said Mr Hogg. The member states were "facing strong internal pressures ... they do not appear to be in a position to agree to a rapid lifting of the ban".

So what on earth was the PONCEING for?

## Beef ban to stay, admits minister

JOHN RENTOU  
Political Correspondent

The Government admitted last night that there was no prospect of getting the export ban on British beef lifted for the foreseeable future, as it faced a tight Commons vote on a Labour motion deplored its handling of the crisis.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, told gloomy Conservative MPs: "We are not going to get from the member states an absolute guaranteed timetable leading to dates when the ban will be lifted."

Northern Ireland MPs - whose votes are critical while the Government has a majority of one - reacted with dismay after Mr Hogg admitted that ministers had not yet tabled "detailed working papers" to try to secure a lifting of the ban for certified BSE-free herds, fed mainly on grass, in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Mr Hogg said other European Union countries were

"facing very strong internal pressure from their consumers and from their farming unions, not to agree to a rapid and substantial lifting of the ban."

And therefore it seems to us probably that the best way forward is to concentrate on the specialist herds and possibly on cattle born after 1 August."

Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, who mocked Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, for failing to speak for the Government in the debate, challenged Mr Hogg over the Government's failure to secure a lifting of the ban by this month - as promised by the Prime Minister after the Florence summit in June.

Mr Hogg found himself interrupted repeatedly by disbelieving Tory backbenchers, many of whom were not rebels and not likely to vote against the Government, but whose obvious despair sapped morale on the Tory side of the House of Commons.



Sequel: Actor Sir John Mills admiring the English Heritage plaque he unveiled yesterday at 54 Eaton Square in central London. Vivien Leigh was best known as Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind*

Photograph: Kevin Lamarque

## BARRY NORMAN WALKED OUT ON MADONNA AND WHY NOT?

## Ministers subvert Kent blight inquiry

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

A ministerial plan to influence a Commons inquiry into the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, and deprive thousands of blighted victims of compensation, was exposed last night.

Labour MP Brian Sedgemore said a leaked letter from the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, showed a clear intention to deny compensation to people whose homes had been blighted by the long-running rail-link saga.

The letter reveals a proposal to exert political pressure on the all-party select committee that considered the rail link legislation.

*The Independent* has learned that the letter was the subject

of embarrassing, closed-door exchanges between MPs on the select committee in October last year.

The committee was warned that a formal complaint of Contempt of Parliament would be made against Sir George, for consideration by the Speaker, unless he provided guarantees that he would not attempt to "nibble" the committee.

He provided that assurance, and the matter was dropped.

But Mr Sedgemore said last night: "This is a contempt of Parliament, and an attempted fraud on the thousands of residents who live on or near the planned route of the line."

"That contempt lies at the heart of Government because no fewer than six Cabinet ministers were involved - the cir-

culation list even included Michael Heseltine, Tony Newson, Leader of the House, and Chief Whip Alastair Goodlad.

In the letter, Sir George reported to William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that select committee recommendations delivered in July last year had added an estimated £150million to the cost of the £3billion rail link scheme.

"Where it has reached decisions or made recommendations which go to the protection of private affected interests, these carry special weight; we could not set them aside lightly."

He told Mr Waldegrave that in those circumstances, it would be "prudent" for himself and John Watts, the railways minister, to intervene.

The plan was to "indicate" to the Tory chairman of the Committee, Sir Anthony Duran, and his Tory deputy, Irvine Patrick.

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## Jobless fall cheers Tories

Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

A big drop in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit last month brought the prospect of the jobless total falling below 2 million in good time for the election.

The Labour Party said this gives its re-election hopes a lift. During the six months before the 1987 election, when the economy was at a similar stage of its cycle, the Conservatives improved their lead in the opinion polls by 12 percentage points, according to Mori.

John Major yesterday predicted that unemployment

would fall further. "You cannot guarantee falls of that sort every month. But that the trend is going down and is continuing to go down over the months ahead, I don't think there is any doubt," he said.

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The introduction of the Job Seekers' Allowance delayed the processing of new claims and exaggerated the fall of 40,800 in the number of claimants in October, to 2,030,000, by up to 15,000. But even adjusting for that distortion, the figures paint a convincing picture of an improving jobs outlook.

The drop in unemployment last month was widespread. The jobless rate fell in all regions, with the biggest declines in the South-east, London, the North-west, Northern Ireland and the West Midlands. The Scottish unemployment rate

fell to its lowest for 16 years and in Northern Ireland to the lowest for 15 years. It fell for both men and women and for all age groups. Long-term unemployment also declined.

Other figures showed that employment in manufacturing industry jumped by 13,000 in September to return to its highest level for four years.

The latest statistics for employment across the economy show the number in work rose by 210,000 in the year to August. Women's employment increased more than men's, and most of the new jobs in the 12 months were part-time.

Interest rate fears,

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Interest rate fears,

Business, page 20

## significant shorts

### Student guilty of stalking lecturer

A mature student stalked her former university lecturer, making his life a misery in a two-year vendetta, after her sexual harassment claims against him were disproved, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Eileen McLarty was ordered not to "molest, harass or stalk" Dr Robert Fine, not to go within 200 yards of his home and to pay £5,000 damages to the senior lecturer for "stress and strain" she had caused him.

The court heard a catalogue of complaints from Dr Fine that he had been constantly harassed and followed by Mrs McLarty and could no longer enjoy his home, his job, go swimming or walk his dog. Mrs McLarty, 50, had claimed all the incidents were coincidences and that Dr Fine was guilty of harassing her.

### Foster heads capital project

The architect Sir Norman Foster yesterday won a competition to produce plans to make the tourist centre of London more "consumer-friendly". With a team of consultants, he will spend a year talking to everyone from tourists to taxi drivers who use some of the best-known parts of the capital.

He will submit suggestions for improving pedestrian and public transport access in and around Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square, Whitehall and Westminster Abbey. Half of the £250,000 project has been paid for by lottery money. It was commissioned by Westminster City Council, in conjunction with the Department of National Heritage.

### Man 'drank to excess'

Liver tests on a company executive showed "wildly excessive" drinking during a week-long business convention in Monte Carlo, the Queen's former physician, Sir Anthony Dawson, told the High Court yesterday.

Sir Anthony was giving evidence for company physician Dr Georges Kaye, in his defence to a damages claim by TV sales executive Peter Baker, for alleged breach of his duty of care to make a proper medical assessment of him when he applied for the £45,000-a-year post as head of international sales with NBC Europe in 1991.

Mr Baker, 53, of Great Bookham, Surrey, was humiliated by the NBC post and resigned from his existing job, only to be turned down at the last minute on the basis of Dr Kaye's assessment that he was a "spree drinker" whose thought processes could be blunted by excessive alcohol.

### Eurostar to offer 'miles'

The high-speed Channel Tunnel Eurostar company yesterday launched a form of "rail miles" to reward frequent business travellers. Passengers who often fly can now take advantage of airlines' "air miles" programmes, with stored miles put towards an eventual free flight.

Now, Eurostar, which operates 186mph services to Paris and Brussels from London's Waterloo Station, has opened a similar scheme to all customers who buy a return ticket or two single tickets in first or business class services. Eurostar also unveiled its new executive lounge, The Clubhouse at Waterloo. It was officially opened by designer Sir Terence Conran.

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**RadioTimes**

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

with the scheme.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) said in October that existing freemasons in the police service should consider resigning from the society. They want the Government to introduce a new law to make registration of masonic membership compulsory. The police chiefs believe the register should be publicly available.

However, the Police Federation, which represents the vast

bulk of the 126,000 officers in England and Wales, said yesterday that they "deeply regretted" the Acpo proposals and said it was an "unwarranted interference with the private lives of police officers".

The Federation argued that under the Acpo proposals officers who refused to leave the freemasons would be victimised and their careers would suffer. It added: "We will express our concern that those in command of Britain's police forces appear more concerned to portray a politically correct image than they are to safeguard the rights of police officers in a free society."

But Paul Whitehouse, chief constable of Sussex, and Acpo

spokesman on the freemasons issue, said: "Surely in this day and age the Federation, of all groups, cannot object to openness and transparency in the public service."

"This was a decision of principle taken by Acpo in both the public interest and the best interests of the Service. We look forward to discussing the arrangements with interested parties, but it must be said that, whilst respecting other viewpoints, we do feel it necessary to take a positive lead on this issue."

The original proposal, made by Acpo's ruling council, will also affect membership of other secret societies such as the Catholic sect Opus Dei, an international organisation of about 80,000 members, and members of other organisations required to give "a bond of loyalty", such as the trustees of charities.



## news

# Why should costs deprive Samuel of a safe treatment for his illness?

Susan Emmett

Five-year-old Samuel does not flinch when doctors inject the plasma-based treatment he needs to fight haemophilia.

It is his father, Kevin Farnill, who worries that Samuel is not getting the best and safest treatment and that is why they will both be attending a tribunal in London today that challenges a decision to impose value-added tax on a purer, artificial clotting agent.

Doctors agree that recombinant Factor VIII, a genetically engineered clotting agent, is purer and safer than the plasma-derived agent and preferable for treating children.

But it costs twice as much as the plasma-based treatment and a decision by Customs and Excise to impose VAT on the product this summer made it even more expensive for hospitals.

Dr Christopher Raper, the consultant haematologist who treats Samuel at Kingston General Hospital in Hull, Humber, said the treatment was too expensive to use at the hospital.

"It's disgusting," said Mr Farnill. "I cannot understand why they are not giving recombinant to everybody. It's the common sense approach."

Mr Farnill and Samuel, his only son, have travelled from Hull to attend the tribunal along with other families from around Britain.

They hope to see the decision to impose VAT reversed, making it cheaper and increasing their chances of getting the treatment.

Mr Farnill fears Samuel is at risk of catching diseases such as Hepatitis C from the blood-based product that he receives. But his greatest worry is that the clotting agent might contain viruses yet to be identified.

Around 3,000 out of 5,000

haemophiliacs in the country have been infected with Hepatitis C and two viruses. Hepatitis A and parvo-virus are resistant to all sterilisation techniques. "I wish I could say 'don't treat him,'" he said. "But at the time when you take him to hospital, he is in agony, you have no choice, you just have to hope."

The Haemophilia Society says VAT is another obstacle preventing children from being treated with recombinant.

"I hope that they will take off the VAT," said a spokesman. "That will remove one barrier. It will not guarantee that it will be brought in but it will help."

Dr Raper said the artificial treatment is an advance and should be encouraged, especially among haemophiliacs who have not had treatment or are only occasionally treated, as in Samuel's case.

"I look forward to the day when all haemophiliacs will be on recombinant Factor VIII," said Dr Raper.

He added: "It is up to the manufacturers and the government to bring the prices down. In three to four years the cost will come down."

The decision in the tribunal hinges on whether recombinant Factor VIII can be classified as a blood product. Human blood, plasma-derived clotting agents, organs and milk and their products are exempt from VAT.

The human plasma-derived Factor VIII accounts for more than 90 per cent of the clotting agents used by the National Health Service. Haemophiliacs cost the NHS about £40m to treat annually and some doctors say the bill would double if recombinant Factor VIII was provided for all.

More than half of Factor VIII used in Germany is recombinant and a similar level of use is reported in France.



Decision day: The life of Samuel Farnill, 5, could depend on the outcome of today's case

Photograph: David Barr

# NHS plan attacked as waste of money

**Colin Brown**  
Chief Political Correspondent

The shadow health spokesman Chris Smith yesterday attacked the Government white paper on the NHS as "an abuse of civil servants' time" and a pre-election stunt aimed at boosting the profile of the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell.

"There is nothing in this White Paper of any real significance, no legislative proposals at all," he said. The document, costing £170,000 of the health budget, was a "blatant piece of electioneering material".

Mr Dorrell denied allegations that he was painting a rosy picture of the NHS which clashed with the reality of bed shortages, cancelled operations, and a looming financial crisis in hospitals this winter.

Mr Dorrell said the white paper, called "A service with Ambitions", was intended as a vision of the NHS of the future. It was not intended to deal with "difficult short-term issues", he said, which will be tackled by the announcement of an extra £300 million after the Budget.

It was dismissed as being "full of good intentions signifying no new policy" by Liberal Democrat health spokesman, Simon Hughes.

But the white paper does give a clear vision of the way the NHS could develop.

It commits the Conservatives to funding the NHS from taxation, and insists that it is "affordable". But the limited resources available from the taxpayer will be allocated according to priorities.

Three working parties will be set up to investigate ways of providing more information for the patient, the development of health teams to break down barriers between hospitals and GP surgeries, and ways of measuring effectiveness of treatment.

Under the white paper,

patients and their GPs could be given league tables listing the most successful and least successful hospitals and consultants according to outcome of treatment.

The effectiveness of treatment will be one of the priorities for allowing care on the NHS. Health service managers may decide that some treatments are too expensive and not likely to be successful. Fertility treatment, may be ruled out on the NHS by managers, unless their success rate improves.

In reality, patients are already finding that the "national" health service is no longer offering the same cover across the country. Mr Dorrell said there was no "blanket" ban on IVF on the NHS but in some areas IVF is available on the NHS, in others it is not because of its cost.

Hospitals are going deeper into the red, in spite of a statutory requirement to break even at the end of the financial year. They are hoping to make ends meet this winter with the promise of more money next year.

Figures by Hugh Bayley, a Labour MP and expert on health economics, show that the deficit of eleven trusts doubled during 1995-96 from £10.8 million to £19.4 million.

The Mid-Anglia community trust deficit rose from £44,000 to £119,000 in 1995-96; East Anglia ambulance service went from £68,000 to £98,000 deeper into the red; the deficit of the Royal National Throat Nose and Ear Hospital escalated from £33,000 to £3.5 million.

Other increases in deficits included the United Leeds Teaching hospitals, which rose from £334,000 to £6.9 million; Swindon and Marlborough, increased from £52,000 to £1.02 million; and Greenwich which rose from £2.8 million to £4 million.

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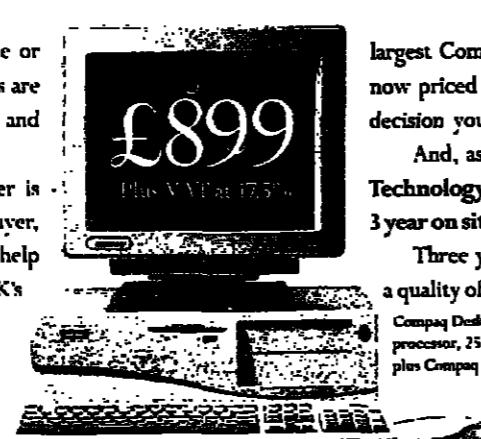
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## Blue pencil for sex and violence in BBC code

Marianne Macdonald  
Media Correspondent

In response to what it said was a shift in moral values the BBC yesterday cracked down on gratuitous sex and depictions of violence in its new producer guidelines.

The ring-bound booklet is supposed to be a bible for producers, advising on contentious issues, but the launch served a dual function in assuring the government that the corporation was reflecting its moral concerns. Last week Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, criticised the amount of sex and violence on television. In a letter to the BBC she expressed particular concern about the emphasis on crime.

Some will see the guidelines as a victory for the Mary Whitehouse school of morals and as part of the corporation's bid to win an increase in its licence fee. A significant extra injunction warns: "For each of us, sexual activity happens after moral decisions have been made; its portrayal, therefore, should not be separated from recognition of the moral process."

## Drama heavyweights attack BBC 'dilution'

David Lister  
Arts News Editor

all signed a letter condemning Mr Birt's reorganisation plans.

Writing on behalf of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain they say: "If the range of voices on the BBC is diluted for commercial expediency, the country will be the poorer. The BBC will have lost its distinctive remit, there will be no need for the licence fee and public service broadcasting will be dead."

Playwrights Harold Pinter, Alan Ayckbourn and Willy Russell; Ray Galton, the co-writer of *Hancock and Son*; the *Dad's Army* creator, David Croft and Jimmy Perry; comedienne Victoria Wood and TV dramatists Jack Rosenthal and Alan Plater have

Guidelines on violence have also been toughened. Producers are told not to concentrate unduly on the bloody consequences of an accident or terrorist attack, to avoid close-ups and not to show the dead unless there are compelling reasons for doing so.

The guidelines say there are almost no circumstances in which it would be justified to show an execution, a shift from those issued three years ago, which said there were "very few" such occasions. The wording is a rebuff for Martin Bell, the foreign correspondent, who has argued that news programmes are sanitising wars by not showing the true horror. The booklet says: "Editing out the bloodiest scenes need not result in a sanitised version of events. A good script is vital in conveying the reality of tragedy."

The section covering swear words has also been strengthened to make their use more infrequent.

"Deep offence will... be caused by profane references or disrespect, whether verbal or visual, directed at matters which are at the heart of various religions," the booklet warns.

"Blasphemy is a criminal offence in the UK."

In the latest guidelines the election is a key issue and the lessons learnt from the disastrous reliance by the media on inaccurate polls during the 1992 election have not been forgotten.

The failure of voting-intention polls at the 1992 general election called into serious question the methods used by pollsters to estimate voting intentions... Until it is clear that [they] are more robust, the BBC will maintain a sceptical approach to polling."

Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast, said the toughened framework was a response to a perceived hardening of public attitudes about violence — although not about sex.

"Our audiences are not so fussed about the depiction of sex, but I think there's always been a concern about violence and that doesn't go away," he said.

## Post-Modern tribute to rebel poet



Split pea: 'Rising Universe', the £100,000 statue to Shelley by Angela Conner, being installed in Horsham yesterday

Photograph: David Rose

Jojo Moyes

"He was a radical man and the council was keen to have something that reflected that," said the man from Horsham council. "I think he would have appreciated it."

Whether Percy Bysshe Shelley, anti-Royalist, atheist, vegetarian, and legendary romantic poet, ever imagined he would be commemorated by a £100,000, 16-ft globe between McDonald's and Capital Sounds and Vision, is unclear.

But as the last pieces of the sculpture, *Rising Universe*, were finally put in place yesterday evening, the people of Horsham were not slow to pass judgment on the memorial for their town's best-known son.

"It's a waste of bloody money," said Burns Star veter-

ean Harry Pearsall, 79. "I think it's a good idea in that Shelley is our famous son and, like myself, he was a bit of a rebel. But I think it's a bit too much. They should have spent the money on homeless people."

Dennis Bowcock, who had witnessed the sculpture's gradual installation over the last week, was more enthusiastic. "I think it's brilliant. I like the fact

it's a bit different. I'm not a fan of all modern art but I like this — it's better than just a statue."

A memorial less like a statue would be hard to imagine. The sculpture, by Angela Conner, stretches across 45 feet and stands 28 feet high. Six-and-a-half tonnes of water run from top to bottom, causing the "split pea" as one bystander called it, to rise and lower. Around it,

smaller "satellite globes" float in pools of water.

"We commissioned a lot of representative art and we felt that to commemorate a radical man we wanted a radical sculpture," said a council spokesman. "There's been a very good response from the public. We expected quite a reaction but we've been surprised at how well it's been received."

### Shelley's Statue Replies

By Martin Newell

I saw a statue in a Sussex town And as I passed I heard the thing draw breath The poet grinned and quietly whispered down "What? Still in trouble years after my death? Hera in Horsham, home of leafy cuteness? Do they still go on about my habits?"

One frail monument to dissoluteness And they all start up like frightened rabbits. Sometimes, the devil is a gentleman Usually with poets it's vice versa So therefore when he learns to rhyme and scan He must improvise with his own cursor Horsham, I am Shelley, can you take it? Horny, atheistic staring at you Hope that HG Wells is next to make it. Horsham Heath deserves a Martian statue."

Horsham has been slow to commemorate Shelley, who was born there in 1792. While the West Sussex town's museum has a section devoted to the romantic poet, it has taken 200 years to forgive the man whom many traditionalists saw as a socialist embarrassment.

The unveiling of the sculpture, paid for by Sainsbury's, marked the end of a week of reconciliation, culminating in a visit by Italian officials from Lerici, where he drowned in 1822. It included the distribution of 2,500 gingerbread men to local schools (gingerbread was mentioned in Shelley's first recorded letter), along with information sheets on the poet.

The Shelley Fountain Visitors' Centre will be open until 23 November to explain the poet's links with the town.

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news

# Councils' fraud bills soar as gangs move in

**Christian Wolmar**  
Westminster Correspondent

The amount of fraud detected in local government has doubled over the past two years, according to Audit Commission figures published today.

The commission says there is mounting evidence that organised crime is moving in on local government.

Some gangs have set out to defraud many councils. Attempted rackets include invoices being sent for professional organisations to which councils do not belong. Nigerian gangs obtaining bank account details to abstract bank and landlords claiming on behalf of non-existent tenants.

The value of detected fraud has increased from £34m in 1993/4 to £69.5m last year. The number of cases has doubled from 53,000 to 106,000.

The commission, the local-authority watchdog, stresses that much of the increases result from better detection methods, in particular the use of computers to prevent housing-

benefit fraud. It points out that for the past two years councils have been rewarded with more government grant when they detect fraud.

The commission says it is unable to estimate the total amount of fraud in Britain's 400 councils and wants more to be done to prevent and detect it.

The commission has been working with a group of local authorities to increase detection, particularly of benefit rackets which accounts for 79 per cent of the value of fraud. Andrew Foster, commission controller, said that a £600 computer program could save 100 times its cost in a year. "All councils should use these programs," he said. One racket detected by the program is fraudsters using a false identity in all 33 London councils to claim housing benefit at empty houses in each.

There is very little detected "insider" fraud. All but 1 percent of the fraud uncovered by auditors relates to the public, rather than staff, attempting to steal from local authorities. Only 21

cases of corruption were detected in 1995/6 compared to 57 in the previous year, but the commission accepts that "corruption remains difficult to identify and to prosecute successfully."

One area where fraud has increased is in student grants. The amount of detected fraud has risen from just over £1m in 1993/4 to £5m. One woman made claims in respect of five deceased members of her family. When her home was raided, it was discovered that she had 50 birth certificates, 17 marriage certificates and 14 British passports.

The commission criticised local authorities for failing to take sufficient care over cheques. One borough lost £40,000 after thieves intercepted and altered a cheque.

Mr Foster said: "There are safe ways of transferring money through computers. Issuing big cheques like this is ridiculous in this day and age."

*Protecting the Public Purse: Ensuring probity in Local Government*, Audit Commission, £6.

## Labour calls for court action if children are out of control



Laying down the law: Labour says delinquency will grow unless action on effective parenting is taken.

Photograph: Hulton Getty

## 'Help bad parents,' says Straw

**Patricia Wynn Davies**

More education in parenting and a national telephone information service for parents in difficulty would be developed under a Labour government, Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Straw and Janet Anderson, shadow minister for women, said in a discussion document that unless the subject of parenting was tackled, delinquency and crime would grow.

"If we are not prepared to do

this then we are doomed to spend more on police, security, insurance, courts and prisons," the MPs say in the paper, which cites studies showing the link between defective early childcare and delinquency.

Mr Straw said it was "no good just lecturing parents for being lousy parents. We have also got to have intervention as well."

The document outlines the scale and difficulty of the task, saying that while the "roots of offending" lie in parental attitudes, defining parental re-

sponsibility is almost impossible. It notes that in government Labour would encourage the expansion of locally-developed parenting programmes.

Labour would ask the proposed Qualifications and National Curriculum Authority to examine how parenting lessons in schools could be organised and consider how resources could be better used to develop a telephone information service on parenting and sources of help but makes no promises

New labour, new nanny, page 19

## Major sacks rebel Dicks for support of total gun ban

**Colin Brown**  
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major today will meet parents of the victims of the Dunblane tragedy but will resist demands for a free vote on a total ban on all handguns.

The Prime Minister yesterday underlined his determination to impose discipline on the government "payroll" vote by sacking Terry Dicks, 59, as a ministerial aide for supporting the Dunblane campaign.

The sacking of Mr Dicks as parliamentary private secretary to John Hume, a junior Transport minister, was condemned by Labour's spokesman on Scotland, George Robertson, as a "brutal and insensitive warning" to other MPs that a victory on a partial gun ban mattered more than conscience or principle.

"It is a sickening irony that Tory MPs, including Cabinet

ministers, can achieve a free vote on caning by breaking ranks, but a humble parliamentary private secretary is sacked for exercising his conscience on gun control," Mr Robertson said.

Urging John Major to respond to the Dunblane parents' plea for a free vote, he said:

"There is still time for the Tory party to save its reputation."

Mr Major was accused of acting "in a juvenile manner" by Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader. This is a clear sign of Major's penance and abject fear that the case for a complete handgun ban is now winning the argument.

About six Dunblane parents are expected to make their case to Mr Major at the meeting, immediately after Prime Minister's question time. But a Downing Street spokesman played down any chance of the Prime Minister changing his approach to

the Firearms Bill and allowing a free vote next Monday.

Mr Dicks is one of the most outspoken right-wingers in Parliament. A strident supporter of tough law-and-order measures, including the return of capital and corporal punishment, he backed the police on a total handgun ban. He said: "I am sorry the Government acted in this way. I have no regrets; first

Hungerford, then Dunblane – how many more people have to die before effective action is taken to deny private ownership of handguns and other weapons?"

He knew he risked being sacked from his unpaid post. He is now free to vote with other Tory rebels, led by David Mellor, the former Home Office minister.

On Friday night 31 Tories voted against the Government on the second reading of the Bill. Some Tories said another 30 abstained. Voting for the rebel Tory amendment were Robert Banks (Harrow East); Spencer Basire (Bolton SE); Peter Bottoms (Croydon NW); Sir Trevor Brooking (Bedfordshire N); Peter Viggers (Gosport); John Whittingdale (Colchester S and Maldon); Sir Jerry Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare); Ann Winter (Croydon); and tellers, Tony Marlow (Northampton N) and Rupert Allason (Tiverton).

Also for the amendment were Labour MPs – Frank Cook (Stockton N); Dr John Gilbert (Dudley E); David Young (Bolton SE) – and three Ulster Unionist MPs – Roy Beggs (Antrim E); William Ross (Londonderry E); John Taylor (Strangford).

Body (Holland with Boston); Sir Andrew Bowes (Brighton Kempston); Ian Bruce (Dover S); Nicholas Badger (Wolverhampton SW); John Carlisle (Luton N); Winston Churchill (Dagenham); Michael Colvin (Romney and Westgate); Christopher Gill (Ladbrooke); Sir John Goss (Fleetwood N); Sir Anthony Green (Cambridge SW); Sir Archibald Hamilton (Spital and Ewell); Sir Alan Haselhurst (Saffron Walden); Andrew Hunter (Bassingstoke); Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith (Walsall); Michael Jopling (Westminster and Lambeth); Dame Eluned Jones (Bromley); Dame Jill Knight (Edinburgh); Iain Mill (Meriden); Sir Cranley Osoba (Woking); Roderick Richards (Croydon NW); Sir Trevor Shore (Bedfordshire N); Peter Viggers (Gosport); John Whittingdale (Colchester S and Maldon); Sir Jerry Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare); Ann Winter (Croydon); and tellers, Tony Marlow (Northampton N) and Rupert Allason (Tiverton).

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## Smith's widow enters Parliament

**John Rentoul**  
Political Correspondent

Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, the widow of the late Labour leader John Smith, was appointed yesterday to the party's front bench in the House of Lords.

Her appointment was part of a last minor reshuffle, as Lord Richard, Labour leader in the

Lords, readied his team for a constitutional showdown with hereditary peers if Tony Blair wins the election. The former Elizabeth Smith has become a Labour spokeswoman on tourism. Since her husband's death two-and-a-half-years ago, she has kept a low profile, apparently resisting any move into any official position within the party.

But Lord Ewing, who clashed with the Labour leader over its handling of plans for a Scottish parliament, has left the front bench.

Meanwhile, Lord Strathclyde, the Conservative chief whip in the House of Lords, confirmed that his party would not block the ending of speaking and voting rights for hereditary peers. In a letter to Lord

Carter, a senior Labour front-bencher, he confirmed that the Tories would abide by the "Salisbury Convention" – the Lords would not stand in the way of a manifesto pledge of a party which won a general election. But Tory sources made it clear that the progress of the Bill to remove the rights of hereditary peers "would be slow".



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JUDGE 150

# Voucher schools cram children into huge classes

Judith Judd  
Education Editor

Local authorities are cramming young four-year-olds into large reception classes which are not equipped to cope with them, says a report on the first independent evaluation of the Government's nursery voucher scheme.

The report on the pilot scheme in four local authorities says the Government is misleading parents by talking about nursery vouchers; the scheme is more about four-year-olds starting school early than about nursery education.

Some schools in the pilot authorities have changed their admissions policies to secure more voucher money.

Yesterday, Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said that her officials had written to all local authorities asking them to consider whether reception classes are the right place for young four-year-olds.

Ministers say the pilot has been highly successful with more than nine out of ten parents receiving and redeeming vouchers. In Norfolk, they say, 800 new local authority places have been created, plus 285 private and voluntary ones. Westminster has plans for 1,000 new places in the next three years.

Parents of all four-year-olds will be eligible for £1,100 vouchers from April next year.

Mrs Shephard said: "Vouchers give parents a real choice. They take purchasing power away from bureaucrats and place it squarely in the hands of parents."

But the report from early

childhood expert Gillian Pugh says: "There is very little evidence as yet of parents exercising their choice differently from how they would have done before – indeed some are feeling pressurised by schools to send their children to school when they are just four."

Mrs Pugh says the burden of administration for the scheme, which costs just under £10 per voucher. "There is a strong feeling of time wasted which could more profitably be spent on educating children."

Local authorities in the pilot scheme have been given extra money for administration which will not be available when vouchers are available nationally.

Mrs Pugh's report says it is too early to answer many of the questions about vouchers but points to the fact that while there

is a 10% increase in the number of places in Norfolk, some playgroups have closed, and a further 22 fear they will.

Yesterday, she criticised the Government's letter urging local authorities to reconsider plans to put young four-year-olds in reception classes and to work with private and voluntary groups. "Ministers cannot have it both ways. If this scheme focuses on parental choice then the marketplace is one in which providers must compete. It is at odds with the spirit of the scheme for the Secretary of State to tell people to work together."

Mrs Shephard announced a £650,000 advertising campaign to publicise the £75m scheme. The helpline set up on Monday has already received 6,000 calls.

## DAILY POEM

### The Windhover

By Gerard Manley Hopkins

I caught this morning morning's minion, king  
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-down-drawn Falcon, in  
his riding  
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding  
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing  
In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing  
As a state's hell sweep smooth on a bow-bend: the hurt and  
gliding

Rebuffed the bing wind. My heart in hiding  
Stirred for a bird, – the achieve of it, the mastery of the thing!

Bute beauty and colour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here  
Buck! AND the fire breaks from thee ther, a billion  
Times told lovelier, more dangerous. O my chevalier!

No wonder of it: sheer plod makes plough down silicon  
Shine, and blue-break embers, ah my dear,  
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermillion.

Two years after completing "The Wreck of the Deutschland" Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote some of his best-known poems, including "The Windhover" and "Pied Beauty". In this time he was preparing for ordination and religious conviction fuelled sensory experience and visions of ecstatic intensity. For all this his poetry was underpinned with rigorous technique. His "spring rhythm", the stress is provided by accents rather than by syllables, harked back to medieval verse but his stabbing use of words and vivid imagery he pushed new boundaries. Hopkins' *Selected Poems* are available in Oxford World Classics at £3.99.

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Silver show adds finishing polish to museum's new look

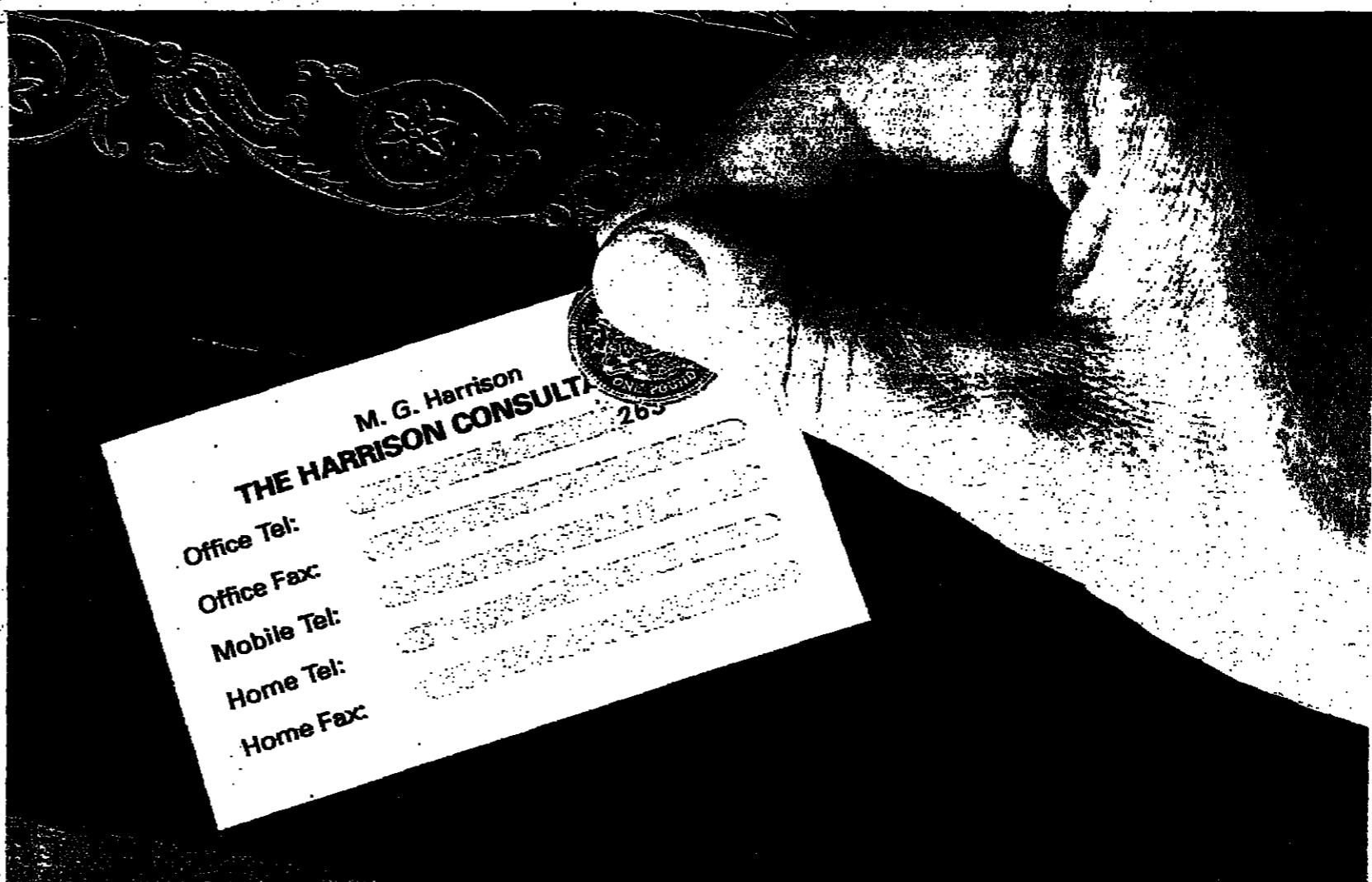


An 18th-century chess piece which features in the newly refurbished Silver Galleries at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The galleries opens on 27 November and covers aspects such as stylistic development of the metal and hallmarking.

Photograph: John Lawrence

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news

# Once the front line against the Luftwaffe, now it's Howard's front line on crime



Role change: The Prison Service has taken an 18-month lease on the former RAF base at Finningley and plans to move inmates in from January.

Photograph: Ross Parry

Jason Bennett  
Crime Correspondent

A former Royal Air Force base is to be converted into a make-shift jail and police cells that cost £300 a night are expected to be used to house inmates under emergency plans to deal with the prison over-crowding crisis.

Richard Tilt, the director general of the Prison Service, admitted yesterday that the system was at bursting point. There are 58,090 prisoners in England and Wales, and there are expected to be more than 60,000 by next March.

The disclosure came as Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Prison Inspector, warned in his first annual report that over-crowding and lack of resources were the most severe problems facing the penal system.

The base at Finningley, near Doncaster in South Yorkshire, is due to house 300 low-risk category C prisoners from January, but the figure could rise to 900. The Prison Service has taken the site on an 18-month lease from the Ministry of Defence but Mr Tilt said it could be purchased outright. It is planned to build a security fence around the base, which until a year ago was used to train navigators and engineers. In the Second World War it was a bomber base.

Mr Tilt also admitted that police cells may have to be used to house inmates during the next few weeks. A committee of MPs has already condemned this practice pointing out that they cost more than a night at the Ritz hotel. In addition, in the next fortnight the first prefab-

ricated overflow huts will be opened. Up to 720 offenders could eventually be accommodated in this way. "We are just about at the limit of our capacity and we are managing by moving prisoners around [the country]," Mr Tilt said.

About 10,000 prisoners now have to share cells as inmates increase by 1,000 a month in response to the clampdown on offenders by Michael Howard,

## Five died at prison affected by drugs

Staff at the only women's jail in Scotland, where five inmates killed themselves in a 15-month period, were overwhelmed by the number of prisoners with drugs problems, said a report published yesterday.

So severe was the problem that three in four of the 50-plus women in the remand block of Cornton Vale prison, near Stirling, were under observation for medical reasons or because they were considered suicidal.

Clive Fairweather, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, said: "The conditions in this [remand] wing were not unlike a mixture between a casualty clearing station and a psychiatric ward."

The scale of the challenge posed by drugs and drug-related problems was shown by the number of medical prescriptions for the prisons: 2,670 in October 1993, 3,198 in October 1994, and 5,528 in Octo-

ber 1995. The drugs in most common use were cannabis, Temazepam, heroin, and Temergic. Drug-induced epileptic seizures were common among women on remand.

In his account of conditions in the remand wing Mr Fairweather said: "Many were frail and undernourished, one woman I saw could hardly get up off her bed to take a puff of her fag."

He said that in the short-term more use could be made of community service orders and in the longer run more use could be made of drug addiction clinics as an alternative to prison. He noted that long-term bail hostels could be used as an alternative for low-risk prisoners on remand.

Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said he would consider the recommendations on bail hostels and psychiatric screening by courts.

The chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, Chris Scott, added: "We should not allow this slow drift back to poor conditions."

## "A CRACKING DRAMA... GRIPPING..."



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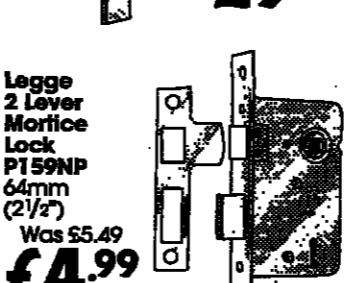
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news

11

## Young artists take a winning leaf out of Britain's history book



Children from Hartfield, East Sussex, compare their winning entries in the Painting Places competition with the real thing. Holly Mitchell, 9 (above), in Sheffield Park, and Frankie Patry, 10, at Bodiam Castle, in East Sussex. Photographs: John Voos

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Want to  
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f them'**



## New bridge computer will deliver ultimate grand slam

Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

First draughts, chess shortly – and next bridge? Computers could soon be world-beaters in yet another popular game, according to scientists devising a new generation of programs intended to vanquish humans.

However, the news... which might at first cause the game's estimated three million players in Britain a deal of fear, is not that bad. It will probably be 20 or 30 years before a bridge-playing computer is world champion, according to Professor Alan Bundy of the artificial intelligence department at Edinburgh University.

"Present commercial bridge programs play pretty amateurish games," Professor Bundy said, "especially compared to chess programs, which in a few years will probably be the best players in the world." He thinks bridge programs now are at the point that chess programs were in the early 1970s.

Whereas most club players can easily beat the best commercial bridge programs, last February the chess world champion Garry Kasparov lost a game in standard competition to the IBM computer Deep Blue. He won the six-game match but faces a rematch



More friendly than the chip: Omar Sharif, bridge player

next May. A computer became world draughts champion in 1994. A backgammon program beat the then world champion in a game as long ago as 1970, though analysis showed it was lucky in its dice throws.

The problem computers have with bridge is that there is "incomplete information" about the game, unlike chess where all the pieces are in view. Although

there are far fewer possible combinations for the 52 cards ( $10^{32}$ ), compared to  $10^{20}$  moves in a chess game – the fact that most of the cards are hidden at the start complicates the process hugely.

Even after bidding, through which humans deduce much about the cards, a player only knows the position of half the cards. "One way to tackle it is to use abstraction," said Professor Bundy, a keen player. "You throw away the detail about the cards, and plan on an abstract level." The program devises a strategy to win tricks with each suit and forms an overall plan.

Other bridge programs, being developed separately in Maryland and Oregon in the US, also work less like number-crunching computers and more like humans. Mathew Ginsberg, of the University of Oregon, has devised one that guesses where cards are and plays accordingly. The Maryland one aims to lose the fewest tricks given the cards visible.

Alan Williams, manager of the English Bridge Union, has no fears that interest in the game will diminish, even if a world-beater does eventually turn up. "A lot of people like playing bridge for the feel of the cards – and to meet people."

Leading article, page 17

Stephen Goodwin  
Heritage Correspondent

The future of Britain is green – if the results of a children's painting competition are anything to go by.

The National Trust's Painting Places competition challenged children to paint a favourite site which they would love to

see saved for the future, and nearly two-thirds of the 12,000 children who entered chose stretches of coast or countryside.

Many of the children, aged between 4 and 15, added an explanation of why their favourite site was so special.

Winners of the competition, which is sponsored by the Yorkshire Building

Society and supported by the Vivien Duffield Foundation, will be announced today on BBC television's children's art programme, *Smart*. Their prizes will include National Trust gift vouchers and CD-Roms.

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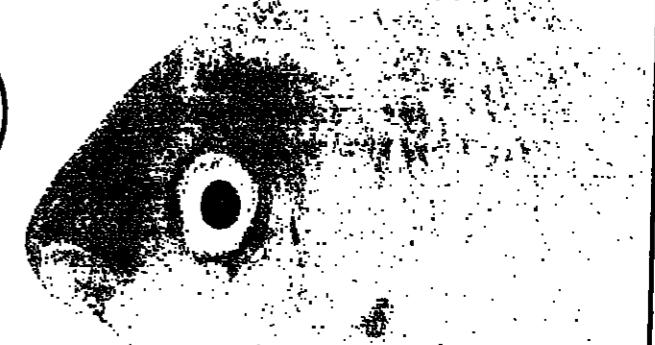
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## international

Rebels fire on aircraft and threaten the French, suggesting intervention force may get a hot welcome

# US joins effort to get aid to Zaire refugees

Rupert Cornwell  
Washington  
Mary Dejevsky  
Paris  
Mary Braid  
Kampala

The Clinton Administration, bowing to intense international pressure, announced late last night that it would take part in a multinational humanitarian relief force in Zaire.

But the signs on the ground were that the military situation in eastern Zaire may present a stiff challenge to the force, especially if France is involved. Zairean anti-government rebels yesterday fired at a plane, suspecting that it was French.

After several days of discussion the United States seemed ready to announce its participation - the step that would turn the force from an idea to a reality.

Details will be worked out after a report from a Pentagon team in Uganda to assess the refugee situation. Major-General Edward Smith, commander of the Southern European Task Force, and a 40-strong team, arrived in Kampala yesterday.

They are expected to visit South-west Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania and possible centres in eastern Zaire for the humanitarian operation.

Washington was expected to be ready to contribute up to 5,000 troops with the prime mission of securing the airport at Goma and providing equipment and logistical support.

Hitherto Washington has been insistent that any United Nations operation to help the hundreds of thousands of trapped Hutu refugees must have a tightly defined mission to avoid any repetition of events in Somalia in 1993, when more than a dozen American soldiers were killed.

Momentum for a force is now building rapidly and a UN security council meeting to formalise it is expected imminently. Canada has said its first troops could be deployed within 48 hours of a UN resolution.

President Nelson Mandela said he is prepared in principle to contribute South African troops to an international force but wanted more specific information. Spain has put troops on alert and the

Netherlands is expected to discuss sending troops in a parliamentary debate today. Ireland has said it will provide troops if asked. Belgium, Zaire's former colonial ruler, has ruled out troops but has offered to help with logistics and money.

The disclosure that the US was already engaged in the region, even to this tentative extent, came amid a flurry of diplomatic activity in France, where the idea of an intervention force was launched. Hervé de Charette, the French foreign minister, was due to have dinner with Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State, in Paris yesterday and a decision was expected to be announced afterwards.

France also disclosed yesterday that it was already engaged in an airborne reconnaissance mission in the region. The French defence ministry said its purpose was to assess the feasibility of landing and protecting large consignments of aid. It said that airfields on the Zaire-Rwanda border were too small and unsafe and that airports in Uganda and the

Central African Republic were being considered.

But the presence of France in the force continues to create considerable antipathy in Africa, where it is seen as being partly responsible for the crisis in Rwanda in the first place.

Yesterday rebels in Goma fired at a plane, saying they suspected French troops were on board. Aid workers later resumed distribution of supplies but it was an ill omen for any

outside intervention.

"It is a signal of what things could be like if we want to mount a major operation in Goma," said Michelle Quiratagie, a UN World Food Programme spokeswoman.

France's neutrality is also compromised by the presence in his villa on the Riviera of President Mobutu, the leader of Zaire. He arrived from Switzerland last week where he had undergone an operation for prostate cancer. In a brief television interview on Tuesday he appealed for international aid for the million or so Rwandan refugees stranded in eastern Zaire but gave no intimation that he intended to leave France soon, insisting that he was still convalescing.

Rwanda has said that French troops should not take part in any force. Its president said yesterday that foreign intervention in Zaire would get "messy", like previous outside military operations in Africa unless Zairean anti-government rebels were consulted.

"To the best of my knowledge the United Nations has not consulted the people controlling eastern Zaire. But in order for this operation to work they must secure the airports of Uvira, Bukavu and Goma," said President Pasteur Bizimungu.

Rwanda and the rebels accuse France of a secret agenda to restore Zairean authority in the east and help the Hutus whose flight to Zaire in 1994 was aided by French intervention.

"If French troops arrive in Goma... we will fire on them and resist them," said Andre Kassasse, Zairean rebel commander said.

There were also indications that the fighting is spilling over national boundaries.

Uganda said yesterday that it

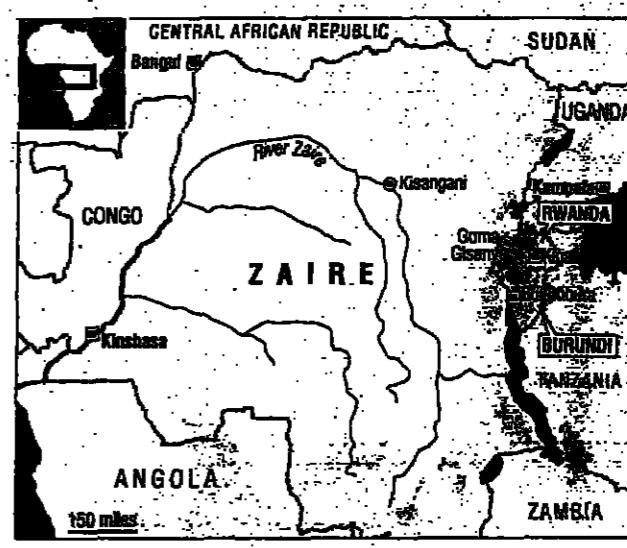
killed three Zairean soldiers after they attacked two border posts, backed by Zaire-based Ugandan dissidents.

Martin Alike, Minister of State for International Co-operation, said Uganda had repulsed the "enemy" and the Zairean soldiers and Ugandan dissidents retreated into Zaire from where they shelled Ugandan positions all day.

He rejected suggestions that Uganda was targeted by Zaire because of its support for anti-government Zairean rebels.



Flight of fear: Rwandan Hutu refugees crossing the border at Cyangugu after the fall of Bukavu to the Tutsi soldiers of the rebel army.



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## Shadowy rebel force holds key to outcome

Efforts to assess the balance of power are being frustrated by lack of information. **Mary Braid** reports

As the outside world reluctantly inches its way towards creating an international peacekeeping force to save a million Rwandan Hutu refugees, the rebels who have broken up their camps in eastern Zaire remain a mysterious force.

That has not stopped western governments pinning great hopes upon them. The diplomats' ideal solution would have been the rebels' speedy dispatch of the thuggish Interahamwe, the Hutu militia which incited their people to genocide against their Rwandan Tutsi countrymen in 1994, then led them into the UN refugee camps of eastern Zaire where they were re-moulded into one great collective cash cow to fund attacks across the border.

But the Interahamwe is proving more of a match for the rebels than the unpaid, corrupt Zairean troops who fled at the first sign of trouble. It continues to manipulate and intimidate its people, now holding hundreds of thousands hostage near Goma, as a shield against all enemies, including, presumably, any outside force.

Diplomats are still trying to get a measure of the rebels' but we just don't know who exactly they are, how well they are equipped or where they are being funded from, said one Western diplomat, dispatch to Kigali. "We're in the dark."

There are persistent rumours that an international network of expatriate Tutsis - particularly strong in Canada and the US - helped fund the successful war by Tutsis, exiled in Uganda, against the Hutu-led Rwandan government in the early 1990s.

That network is now said to be supporting Zairean Tutsis - the Banyamulenge - which the Zairean government holds responsible for the rebellion in eastern Zaire. The Banyamulenge, the Zairean government claims, are backed by Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda because they have designs on its territory.

Among the rebel soldiers patrolling Goma this week are many non-Tutsis from Shaba, Kasai and Haute Zaire, north of Kivu. Many speak perfect English and some even admit they picked up their language and military skills in the same place - Uganda.

Kabila denies receiving help from Rwanda or Uganda. But journalists and aid workers saw Rwandan soldiers in Goma. Refugees fleeing the conflict say guns flooded in and rebel groups seemed to swell before the insurrection began.

Rwanda has most likely taken advantage of the internal discontent in a collapsing country where money is literally worth less than the paper it is printed on. At the very least, Kabila must be delighted to see the Hutu threat removed from his doorstep, the rebels providing a buffer zone, and the international community at last forced to act. It is hard to believe that such a brilliant military strategist had nothing to do with this outcome.

Whatever the shape of the international force which eventually arrives in eastern Zaire, it seems unlikely that it can rely on the rebels to make its greatest problem - the Interahamwe - disappear. The rebels might win with time, but time is something the refugees are sadly lacking.

The international community now faces the problem it stirred two years ago when aid agencies warned of disaster if the Hutu extremists were not separated from the refugees. It was always going to be a difficult task, but it will prove impossible if those sent to do the job are deprived of the right to use force.

J. M. 150

## international

Banished: Award in a gallery as leaders squabble over author's invisible enemy

# Cowering Danes blow their Rushdie cover-up

Imre Karsics  
Copenhagen

Salman Rushdie swept into Denmark yesterday but did not quite make it to Europe's "capital of culture". Terror-stricken Copenhagen had closed its gates, banishing the author to a suburban art museum, where he was due to be presented with the EU's prestigious Aristotle prize last night.

Streets in the vicinity were barricaded by armed police, the country's frontiers were guarded with extra vigilance, and beards were subjected to



Taking the blame: Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, Prime Minister

the greatest scrutiny. "Rushdie shall die," screamed yesterday's headline in the tabloid *B7*, a threat which the paper claimed that it had received from the massed ranks of Danish Muslims.

The ceremony, brought forward by one day on security grounds, was a fitting finale to the comic opera that has been enthralling a world-wide audience for the past two weeks. On

Tuesday the time and venue was announced by the government, only to be promptly declared secret by the police. To get to the "secret" location, journalists had to rendezvous with a "secret" bus which would pick them up in the centre of Copenhagen, equipped with special security passes that should have been obtained by last Monday. Secretly, however, the passes could still be garnered yesterday afternoon. "Please don't tell any other journalists," a helpful government official pleaded. The police were already very annoyed about the visit.

The forces of law and order had decreed that they were far too busy fighting Hell's Angels and Banditos, the rival biker gangs which have lately been swapping their chains for rocket-propelled grenades in their war over the Scandinavian turf, for the distraction of Mr Rushdie.

Under pressure from the police, the Justice Ministry had told Mr Rushdie, in effect, that he was *persona non grata* in a country which he has visited several times since the *fawza* was declared. Actually, they did not inform the author in person. The Danes communicated the news via the good offices of Britain's Foreign Office.

"It is scandalous," Mr Rushdie retorted, "that Copenhagen, the present capital of culture, refuses to permit the winner of the European Union's own literature prize to attend the ceremony. It is a cowardly decision, which is exactly the opposite of what one should do in the face of threats such as the Iranian *fawza*".

Denmark was the first European country Mr Rushdie



No entry into the culture capital: Salman Rushdie said after being refused entry to Copenhagen, 'It is a cowardly decision which is exactly the opposite of what one should do in the face of such threats as the Iranian fawza' Photograph: Geraint Lewis

visited after the death sentence, and Scandinavian governments have been loudest in condemning the Tehran regime. While the dispute has mystified the public in the rest of Europe, in Denmark people were outraged in Denmark by

their government's cravenness. The Prime Minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, had no alternative but to admit that the affair had become a fiasco and generously took the blame upon himself. That and the U-turn narrowly averted a no-confi-

dence vote he would have been certain to lose. But fury is still raging in parliament. Today will see a full debate on the issue and on relations with Iran, and the coalition will only be sustained by reluctant left-wing opposition parties which do not want to be seen to be voting with the opposition on the right.

Mr Rushdie was awarded the prize for his latest novel, *The Moor's Last Sigh*. Danish bikers have yet to comment on the merits of the award, or indeed to express any opinion on Islam.

## Peru quake traps miners underground

At least 40 gold miners were trapped yesterday in an underground mine in the Andes mountains after a powerful earthquake struck Peru's southern coast, killing 15 people and injuring as many as 700.

The 6.4-magnitude quake struck at midday Tuesday, damaging homes and buildings in Nazca, a tourist town of 25,000 located 235 miles south-east of Lima. Four people were killed and 380 injured there, and streets were blocked with rubble.

The quake lasted about a minute and was felt in Lima and as far away as Tacna, 600 miles south-east of the capital, Nazca. —AP

## North Korea accused of drug-running

North Korea is smuggling illegal drugs through the Russian Far East as part of desperate efforts to fight a domestic economic crisis, a senior military intelligence official was quoted as saying.

The ITAR-Tass news agency quoted the unidentified official as saying the Russians have seized several shipments of heroin and opium that were being smuggled by North Koreans. The official spoke after claims this week by a North Korean defector that Pyongyang is secretly running poppy farms nationwide to produce opium that it exports to earn hard currency. Moscow —AP

## Greece fears Turkish threat

Premier Costas Simitis blamed the military threat from Nato ally Turkey for his decision to go ahead with a massive four trillion drachma (£10bn) arms modernisation programme.

Mr Simitis said the Greek people "will have to make sacrifices" to meet the goals of the eight or nine-year modernisation programme, which could surpass £15bn after debt payments. His announcement came as the Turkish parliament was debating a 1997 budget that includes £5bn in defence expenditure as compared to £2.5bn in 1996. Athens —AP

## Data alarm for Estonians

Estonia is in uproar over the black market sale of personal information on thousands of citizens that was stolen from government data banks.

The Baltic News Service said Prime Minister Tiiu Vahi has carpeted the heads of agencies where information was leaked and promised a full inquiry. According to police, copies of government databases containing thousands of telephone numbers, corporate and vehicle data are now for sale on the black market. Such information, police say, is of particular value to organised crime. Tallinn —AP

## Protest over Tudjman veto

Croatian opposition parties decided to start a 30-day boycott of parliament and continue boycotting the Zagreb city council.

The Social Democrats allied with five other opposition parties, ousted President

Tudjman's party in municipal elections a year ago. But Mr Tudjman used his presidential veto to reject four opposition-elected mayors, arguing he could not relinquish power in the capital. Zagreb —AP

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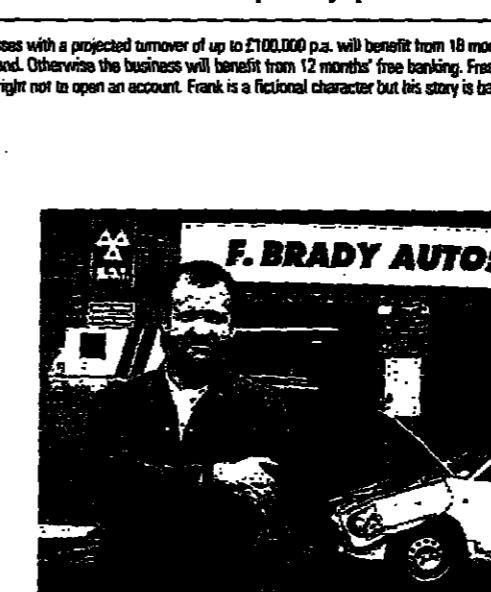
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# Tapes point blame at Kazakh pilot

Officials blame poor English for disaster at 14,000ft

**Tim McGirk**  
New Delhi

The mid-air plane crash over northern India, which killed 351 people on Tuesday night, may have been caused by pilot error, according to Indian authorities.

Indian aviation officials yesterday released excerpts of the taped conversation between New Delhi's control tower and the pilots of the Saudi Arabia jumbo jet and the Kazakh Airways Ilyushin charter plane which collided in darkness at 14,000ft. There were no survivors, but two passengers from the Saudi flight survived the crash, still strapped to their seats, only to die soon after of internal injuries.

The tapes, according to Indian officials, prove that both pilots acknowledged receiving instructions from air controllers to fly at varying heights. The Saudi flight, bound to Dharam and Jeddah, was cleared to fly at 14,000ft, while the Kazakh aircraft, headed for New Delhi, was ordered to descend no lower than 15,000ft.

"We've had bad experiences with these pilots from the former Soviet Union," said one senior official at Delhi airport. "They don't speak English very well. When we ask them to repeat the instructions we've just given them, a lot of times they say 'Roger' and then turn off their radios."

In the transcript, the Kazakh pilot reports in at 15,000ft and is told: "Roger, maintain level 150 [15,000ft]. Identified traffic 12 o'clock reciprocal. Saudi Boeing 747, 14 miles. Report in sight."

The Kazakh pilot: "Report how many miles?"

Control tower: "14 miles now. Roger. Traffic in 13 miles, level 140 [14,000 feet]."

A minute later the controller watched, horrified, as two green blips on his radar converged and vanished off the radar screen.

Indian air controllers also complained that pilots from the former Soviet Union sometimes confuse their calculations because they are accustomed to using the metric system to calibrate altitude and distances,

while all other countries use nautical miles and feet.

However, according to one air consultant, Rashid Jung, "plane crashes occur not because of one error but because of many factors". Searchers picking through the smouldering wreckage of the two planes, which crashed to earth six miles from each other, yesterday located the two black boxes which may reveal more details.

Some airline experts claim that over the past three years, New Delhi's air traffic has increased by 20 per cent, and the control tower is often left to juggle take-offs and landings with

**Residents swore the Saudi pilot averted a worse disaster by steering away from villages'**

out-dated equipment. Some experts suggested that New Delhi's approach radar unit lacked sophisticated monitoring devices, common now to most international airports, which not only track an aircraft but also give its exact altitude.

It is also common practice for controllers to route incoming and outgoing aircrafts along different "lanes" in the sky. But because of the Indian air force's stringent controls over civil air traffic, the western route into New Delhi - connecting the capital to the Gulf and Europe - serves for aircraft that are both taking off and landing.

Relatives of the crash victims arrived at the dusty village of Charkhi Dadri yesterday, 60 miles west of Delhi, to try to identify the remains of their loved ones. It was a gruesome, thankless task. Most of the Saudi passengers were Indian workers, but there was one Briton - Karen McCoy, 26, from Birmingham.

Karen's father, Michael, 55, speaking from the family's home in Northfield, Birmingham:

Matty pressures bode ill for

airline safety including the increase in traffic, which leads to aeroplanes flying closer together in the skies. The number of aircraft flying has increased steadily in the last decade. The number of Western-built jets has increased from 7,097 in 1986 to 11,425 in 1995. In other words, we have the makings of a traffic jam in the air with no shoulder to pull over on to.

Suggestions are being floated to narrow the vertical space between aircraft from 2,000ft to 1,000ft. Tests are being conducted at 29,000ft over the North Sea this year to determine if 1,000ft is safe enough.

A decision is expected from

aviation authorities early next year. The two aircraft which collided in India were told to close to 1,000ft for reasons as yet unclear, it was not enough.

The number of fatal accidents has not increased as fast as the number of aircraft. But the number of deaths this year, 1,187, has been by far the worst since 1985, when there were 1,537.

Another reason suggested for the high number of air accidents is the advanced age of some planes being flown. Many of the poorer nations in the former Yugoslavia and Soviet Union have aircraft much older than the 20 or so years that

most experts prefer. Proper maintenance can extend the life of aeroplanes but there has been some question as to the level of maintenance in such countries.

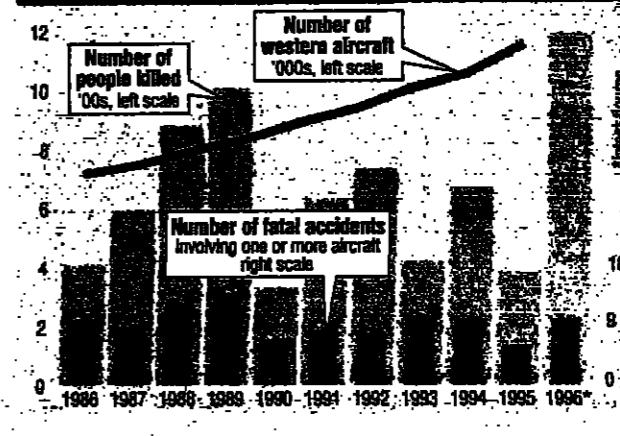
Another worrying aspect lies in the lack of expertise in air traffic control and equipment in countries in Africa and Asia. Such nations lack the money for all the proper equipment and training for air traffic controllers. Many airports lack the people or the hardware to guide planes down safely, leaving the pilots to guide themselves. Global positioning systems telling the pilots exactly where they will help, but they are not yet universal.

Carolyn Evans, technical secretary for the British Air Line Pilot Association, said one of her main concerns is the lack of uniformity between the communication systems of aircraft in the former Soviet Union. The communication radar systems, called transponders, "talk" to each other and signal vital information to pilots, without the crews having to talk to each other. The problem, according to Ms Evans, is that former Soviet transponders don't "talk" to the rest of the world's aeroplanes and are not fully visible on air traffic controllers' screens. This means that procedural, or non-radar control, is then necessary.

Additionally, the former Soviet aeroplanes' altimeters are calibrated in metres, while the rest of the world uses feet.

This could have been the reason behind Tuesday's catastrophe. Ms Evans said BALPA had lobbied the Civil Aviation Authority to standardise the equipment.

Toll of death in the air



A system that could make aircraft safer should they find themselves in air space outside the reach of radar control towers will be mandatory in the UK by 2000. The system, called Airborne Collision Avoidance System, is already mandatory in the United States. It would make it possible for one plane with the system to be able to communicate with another plane that did not have the system as long as it had a transponder.

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# Veterans of Vietnam weep as the girl who became a symbol of suffering comes to forgive 22 years later



Reconciliation: Phan Thi Kim Phuc after addressing the veterans in Washington  
Photograph: Dennis Cook/AP

**David Usborne**  
New York

In the photograph album of the 20th century, one picture more than almost any other will best evoke its most tragic futilities: a nine-year-old girl running naked from a napalm drop in the Vietnam War, arms outstretched in terror. Now, thankfully, we have one more image for the collection: it, by contrast, will stand for man's capacity for courage and forgiveness.

The subject in both is Phan Thi Kim Phuc. She was the child who, on a June day in 1972, was caught by the shutter of Nick Ut, an Associated Press photographer. She was fleeing after a direct hit from a napalm bomb dropped by a South Vietnamese plane on the orders of an American commander. In the picture's left foreground is her brother. Two other brothers were already dead.

Ms Kim Phuc was also the woman with the open, kindly face, who on Veteran's Day last Monday stepped through the crowd assembled at the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC to lay a wreath. Now 33, a wife and a mother, the girl who became the symbol of America's folly had come to its very heart, not to stir its guilt but to learn from the horror.

"I have suffered a lot from both physical and emotional pain," she told the crowd of veterans at the Wall. "Sometimes I could not breathe, but God saved my life and gave me faith

and hope. Even if I could talk face to face with the pilot who dropped the bombs I would tell him, 'We cannot change history, but we should try to do good things for the present and for the future to promote peace.'

The veterans saw her and, to a soldier, they wept.

The story that ensured that Ms Kim Phuc survived to be more than just the girl in the picture began when Mr Ut himself, who won a Pulitzer for the shot, took her burning body to a military hospital. She was treated for 14 months for the third-degree burns that covered half her body; doctors rebuilding her with a series of skin grafts. Every time her skin was so much as touched she would pass out from pain.

In 1984 she was "discovered" by a Dutch documentary team and simultaneously by the Vietnam government which attempted to use her to gain international sympathy. In 1986 she was permitted to travel to Cuba to study. There she fell in love with a fellow Vietnamese student, Bui Huy Toan, whom she married. On a return flight to Cuba from Moscow, where they honeymooned, Ms Kim Phuc announced that they would get off at a stop-over at Gander, Newfoundland. The couple were granted asylum by Canada and today, with a two-year-old son, they live in a one-room flat in a suburb of Toronto.

The journey to Washington this week came about through an invitation from the Vietnam Veterans of America and the support of Shelley Saywell, a Canadian film-maker telling the story of her life.

While Ms Kim Phuc avoided physically, she offered details of her life in an interview with the *New York Times*. "Behind that picture of me, thousands and thousands of people, they



Image of an age: The Pulitzer-prize-winning photograph of Phan Thi Kim Phuc by Nick Ut of the Associated Press

suffered more than me," she said. "They died. They lost parts of their bodies. Their whole lives were destroyed, and nobody took that picture."

Ms Kim Phuc still suffers physically. In Cuba she developed diabetes and asthma and while her face is unblemished, beneath the clothes there is a scarred body. The skin de-

prived of sweat or oil glands, cannot perspire. "When the weather changes, the pain comes, like I am cut, cut. I try to keep down my pain, thinking, thinking to control it. I ask my husband to tell me stories, funny stories or ask me something so I have to answer him. And that is the way I can live."

Twenty-two years after her

image helped to end the Vietnam War, Ms Kim Phuc says she has plenty to be grateful for: a stable life in Canada, a loving husband and a child she thought she would never be able to produce. America has cause to be thankful too - for her grace and courage in coming to Washington to offer remarkable forgiveness.

## Clinton shifts ground over balanced budget

**Rupert Cornwell**  
Washington

After a year of bitter sparring, signs are multiplying that President Bill Clinton and the Republican-controlled Congress may be able to clinch a deal to balance the federal budget well before the next midterm elections in 1998.

The clearest pointer yet came at the first post-election meeting between the President and top Republicans, at which Mr Clinton said for the first time that he could "live with" a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget - a move he previously denounced as a "gimmick" which might only serve to tie the government's hands in dealing with a recession.

In large part, of course, the President's change of tone reflects simple congressional arithmetic. When the measure last came up for a vote, in mid-1995, the White House pulled out every stop to thwart it: but

even so the amendment sailed through the House and failed by a single vote in the Senate to secure the required two-thirds majority. Now, not only have the Republicans increased their overall Senate majority, but two Democrats who opposed the measure have been replaced by ardent supporters.

And whatever its intrinsic merits, the amendment's passage would increase momentum for a budget accord in the first and invariably least confrontational year of a presidential term - following an election in which voters, by sending Bob Dole to defeat, signalled they did not believe in the major tax cuts touted by the Republican candidate.

With the tax-cut issue no longer obscuring the picture, both sides acknowledge that the gap between them is relatively small, even on the hyper-controversial question of Medicare and Medicaid, the two federal health programmes which must be reined in if the budget is to

be balanced. In the last exchange of proposals before the elections, Mr Clinton offered "cuts" of \$183bn (£114bn) over seven years, the Republicans \$253bn (£158bn). "This disagreement can be bridged," Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said.

Meanwhile Mr Clinton is hoping to make a start on rebuilding his Cabinet before he leaves for Asia at the end of the week, with the announcement of a new Secretary of State to replace Warren Christopher next January. The favourite is former senator George Mitchell, who has been chairing the Northern Ireland peace talks, but other candidates, notably the United Nations Ambassador, Madeline Albright, and former Georgian Senator Sam Nunn, are in the running. An outside possibility is retired General Colin Powell, who hinted in a weekend newspaper interview that he would not turn down the job if Mr Clinton offered it.

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## US gives go-ahead for laser weapon

**Rupert Cornwell**

A consortium led by Boeing and Lockheed has won a \$1.1 billion Pentagon contract to develop the world's first full-scale airborne laser defence system to shoot down ballistic missiles - a project described by one supporter as a military innovation equal to the atom bomb.

"This is as revolutionary as the invention of gunpowder or the Manhattan Project," Jerry King, the president of Boeing's defence division, said of the scheme, comparing it to the construction and explosion of the world's first nuclear device in 1945.

The laser guns, with a range of several hundred miles, will be mounted aboard a modified 747 jumbo jet. If all goes well, as many as seven 747s could be in service by 2008, capable of delivering intense energy beams of light that could destroy missiles like the Scuds used by Iraq in the Gulf war.

The idea is for the laser to strike during the initial "boost" phase of a missile's flight, so that the deadly payload would fall back on the country which launched the weapon. At which point a basic problem of laser beams resurfaces - their inability to penetrate clouds. "You'd better hope for good weather," said John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists.

Even so, the airborne defence concept is proof that despite much scepticism the "Star Wars" dream has become a reality, albeit in not quite the grandiose form outlined by Ronald Reagan in 1983.

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## international

# Settlers ready for Hebron struggle

**Patrick Cockburn**

Hebron

In the Israeli military headquarters overlooking Hebron, a brown-coloured fortress built by the British half a century ago, a senior Israeli officer pointed to a thin dark line on the map which will mark the partition of the city between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

"There is friction, daily friction, friction all the time," said the officer, appealing for his name and rank not to be used. Most Israelis had already left the building, due to be taken over by Palestinian police after a final agreement is signed on Israeli redeployment in Hebron.

It is a peculiar type of withdrawal. "In other cities we handed over authority and pulled out," said the officer. "Here we are just going to pull back a few blocks." Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, claimed in the election

that there was a sell-out of the 400 Jewish settlers in Hebron, but it was Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, who made most concessions.

In future, Hebron will be divided into two areas known as H1 and H2. In the former will live 100,000 Palestinians, protected by 400 Palestinian police. In the latter, protecting 48 settler families in the heart of the city, will be 1,000 Israeli soldiers and 20,000 Palestinians included in the settler enclave. Yesterday troops were strengthening their checkpoints and heaping up sandbags.

For Nomi Arnon, settler leader and spokesman, this is disastrous. "We are very concerned and very frightened that PLO police are going to take over Hebron," he said. Asked if was not the Palestinians who had most to fear from the heavily armed settlers, Mr Arnon demanded to know "how a community of 50 men could



Time's up: A Jewish extremist being arrested in Hebron yesterday as the city prepared for partition. Photograph: Reuters

endanger 150,000 Arabs?" A few hours earlier the settlers of Kiryat Arba, the 6,000-strong Jewish settlement overlooking Hebron, had been in a more aggressive mood. Hundreds had gathered to celebrate the bar mitzvah of Yaakov, son of Baruch Goldstein, who murdered 29 worshippers in a He-

bron mosque two years ago. Dov Lior, rabbi of Kiryat Arba, told the young man: "Follow the path of your father, he was a righteous man and a great hero."

Israeli news photographers and cameramen were abused. A man attending the bar mitzvah shouted: "If there was an abom-

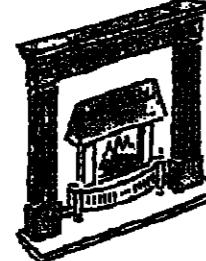
inable murderer in this country it was [the late prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin. Baruch Goldstein saved Jews," Goldstein's father, Yisrael, added. "He was a hero. Everything he did was for the sake of Israel."

Mr Netanyahu, meanwhile, was waiting to see last night if he could leave on a holiday to

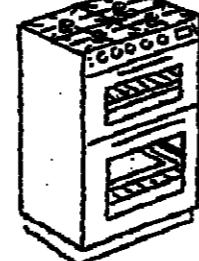
Colorado or would have to cancel because agreement had been reached on Hebron. Palestinian negotiators said they would not agree to the Israeli army entering their enclaves at will. Israel said it was a long way from agreeing a timetable for the next stage of withdrawal from the West Bank.



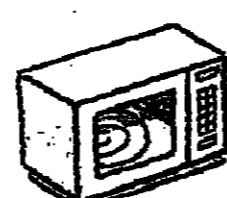
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## PEKING DAYS

# Citizens mass to overthrow king rat

The invitation was hard to ignore. The fax from the Peking Patriotic Sanitation Campaign Committee welcomed observers to view the city's "mass rat-killing activity". As it was official rat-killing week in Peking, an upstanding citizen knew where duty lay.

Participants gathered early yesterday with Zhang Xizang, vice-director of the committee; he was on hand to explain the finer points of rat extermination. He did not have statistics on the rat population of Peking because "rats don't have to register like Chinese people do", but the city's "rat density" was below 1 per cent. This meant if one placed 100 traps for 24 hours, one rat would be caught, he explained.

Peking's citizens have been mobilized against their rodent foes. In East District, there were public viewings of the propaganda videotape, *Rat killing in Chinese cities*, and leaders of work units and enterprises have signed a "1996 winter rat-killing affidavit".

An inspection of 436 work units, 120 neighbourhood committees, and 12,311 rooms found the local rat density at a worrying 9.43 per cent. So, like everywhere across Peking, teams have been out in force, laying poison and traps at all the rats' favourite haunts - street markets, grocery stores, food processing factories and sewers. Some 100 tonnes of rat poison will be laid in the city this week when rats are breeding heavily.

Communist China has a tradition of mass campaigns against small creatures. In the Forties, China's four "demons" were deemed to be the rat, sparrow, fly, and mosquito. The most destructive mission was the slaughter of sparrows in 1958, at the start of the disastrous Great Leap Forward.

Chairman Mao ordered the country's population to strike up a cacophony of sound, beating

Teresa Poole

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## Mexicans jail their marijuana granny

**Phil Davison**

**Latin America Correspondent**

The school children called her little granny. The media have dubbed her "the narco-granny". She is 82 and will not be selling marijuana to children for a while, as she is in jail.

Sofia Garcia could be 87 before she leaves Topo Chico federal prison in Monterrey, in the north of Mexico. The federal prosecutor's office said that while it was normally lenient with old people it was making an exception in this case because of the seriousness of the offence.

Garcia was jailed without bail while awaiting sentence for "crimes against the public health". Police stumbled upon her after a raid aimed at a multi-million dollar cocaine and firearms ring. As they waited to

pounce on this gang outside Monterrey station they were distracted by the smell of marijuana from secondary schoolchildren on a platform.

The pupils, aged between 13 and 17, said they had bought their *palomitas*, or joints, from a woman they called *abuelita* (little granny).

"I'm a poor woman. My husband is sick. I've been selling marijuana all my life. I have to do this to eat," she said as she was handcuffed and taken away to the astonishment of neighbours.

The children said they had paid her 10 pesos (about £1) for a cigarette. Garcia has so far refused to say where she bought the drugs. Monterrey is a haven for drug cartels. One of the FBI's 10 most wanted men, Juan Garcia Abrego, was arrested near the city last year.

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Threat to hold on to weapons if alliance grows

## Belarus warns Nato over nuclear arms

**Tony Barber**  
Moscow

The President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, warned Nato yesterday that he might refuse to give up his country's remaining nuclear weapons unless the Atlantic alliance promised not to deploy nuclear arms in Eastern Europe. In a speech to the Russian parliament, the hardline pro-Russian leader said there were "slightly over a dozen" nuclear weapons left in Belarus from the Soviet era, and if Nato wanted them removed he might "demand guarantees from the West that it will not locate nuclear weapons near Belarus's borders".

Nato intends next year to invite a select group of former Communist countries in Central



Lukashenko: Alliance must sit bombs near Belarus

and Eastern Europe to join the alliance, and hopes to complete the process by 1999. Among those most likely to join is Poland, which shares a border with Belarus.

Although Nato has no plans to deploy nuclear weapons in Poland, the alliance is wary of striking formal deals with Russia or other non-Nato states that could limit its future freedom of action. Nato hopes to allay Russian concerns by forging a close relationship with Moscow that would be defined in a charter to be negotiated as the enlargement process moves forward.

Mr Lukashenko, who is openly in favour of uniting Belarus with Russia, described his country as "the most stable republic in the post-Soviet system

and Russia's most reliable strategic partner". He said that if Nato expanded to the east, Belarus and Russia should "work jointly on an adequate response".

The two countries signed an agreement last April that created a "Russian-Belarusian community", but in practice Russia has held back from taking the decisive steps towards integration that Mr Lukashenko advocates.

He called yesterday for a joint session of the Russian and Belarusian parliaments in January that would decide on the reunification of the two states.

His speech won a sympathetic response from Communist and nationalist members of the State Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, who are much keener than President Boris Yeltsin's administration on reuniting Russia with some former Soviet republics.

However, 13 liberal MPs defected the Communists and nationalists to allow Mr Lukashenko to address the Duma.

A statement released by the group said: "By supporting President Lukashenko, who is obsessed with establishing an authoritarian regime, the national-Communist majority in the Duma has vividly demonstrated its real position on democracy and human rights."

Mr Lukashenko, criticised in the West for his strong-arm rule, has called a referendum in Belarus for Sunday week to endorse his plans for extra personal powers. He wants to restart his presidential term from the date of the vote and rule for seven years without re-election. He also wants the right to appoint all senior judges, half the constitutional court, half the commission which organises elections and part of a newly created upper house of parliament.

While warmly embracing Mr Lukashenko, the Russian parliament's majority has angered Ukraine by moving closer to adopting a resolution that would declare Sevastopol, capital of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, a Russian city and the base of Russia's share of the former Soviet Black Sea fleet.

Georgy Tikhonov, the chairman of the Duma's committee for relations with former Soviet republics, declared that if the resolution on Sevastopol was delayed,

"tomorrow it will be Nato's fleet, not Russia's, that will be based in Sevastopol".

Ukraine hit back with a warning that it would seek support from the US, Britain and France, which guaranteed Ukraine's territorial integrity in 1994 when it agreed to hand over its nuclear weapons to Russia for destruction.

The Black Sea fleet and Sevastopol disputes have prevented Russia and Ukraine from signing a friendship treaty and caused Mr Yeltsin to postpone a state visit to Kiev six times in the last two years.

Shaking the system: Emil Constantinescu, leader of the centrist bloc who won Romania's general elections, greeting supporters after a live television debate with the incumbent president, Ion Iliescu, ahead of Sunday's second round run off.

Photograph: Reuters



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## obituaries / gazette

# Professor Peter Fowler

Peter Fowler was one of the outstanding physicists of his generation. His principal research field was that of elementary particles and cosmic rays, but he also made seminal contributions in many other areas, ranging from measurement of jet turbine blade temperatures to cancer therapy with particle beams.

The son of a prominent theoretical physicist, Sir Ralph Fowler, and the grandson of Lord Rutherford, the discoverer of the atomic nucleus, Peter Fowler was a Wykehamist whose first experiments in physics were as a radar officer in the wartime RAF (1942–46). Some time after D-Day, RAF bombers were having problems due to German jamming of their Gee navigation system. Fowler was able to detect the jamming signals and by a clever analysis which was a real *tour de force*, to pin down the station responsible, which was then destroyed. Goering reportedly demanded a court martial over the breach of security, since he simply could not believe that the British were smart enough to deduce the location of the secret transmitter within a few days of its being switched on.

After taking his degree at Bristol, Fowler joined C.F. Powell's cosmic ray research group. This time in the late Forties was something of a golden era for physics in Britain, with startling new discoveries occurring almost daily.

Fowler was a leading figure in this research; among his notable achievements were the identification of the first example of a new type of "strange" elementary particle called a tau meson (one of his co-workers in this discovery



Fowler: particle physics

craft to Australia. This pioneer work of Fowler laid the basis of later researches using particle accelerators. In 1961 he also wrote an important report for the Air Registration Board demonstrating that, contrary to what some scientists had asserted, the radiation levels due to solar flares in high altitude flights in Concorde across the North Atlantic would be no higher than in subsonic jets.

Peter Fowler's long-term interest in the nature of the cosmic radiation was pursued further using solid state detectors carried in very long balloon flights, and with gas scintillator detectors flown on the *Ariel 6* satellite in the early Eighties. For the first time, significant results were obtained on the fluxes of atoms heavier than bismuth of the actinide series, such as thorium and uranium. The interest in these is that such nuclei can only be built from lighter elements by the rapid neutron capture processes unique to supernova explosions, the death throes of massive stars. The measurement by Peter Fowler of these "super heavy" nuclei is a very important marker for our understanding of the supernova mechanism.

One of the critical factors affecting the efficiency of aircraft jet engines is the temperature of the turbine blades, which is, however, difficult to measure directly when the engine is running. Fowler's ingenuity devised a neat way around this for Rolls Royce by exploiting the resonance capture of low energy neutrons in iron nuclei and the broadening of this resonance with the blade temperature, which could thus be measured

*in situ*. His most recent research, in which he was active at the time of his death, was a novel application of these ideas to geology, by using neutron resonance directly to calibrate thermocouples at thousands of atmospheres pressure, such as obtain deep inside the earth's crust. An accurate temperature calibration is vital to understanding mineral reactions and cannot be obtained in any other way.

Appointed a Reader in Physics at Bristol in 1961, in 1964 Fowler was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and subsequently as a Royal Society Research Professor in Physics. He served as chairman of the Medical Research Council Committee on Radiological Protection (1983–92), as a member of the Meteorological Committee (1983–93) and on the SERC Neutron Facilities Review Panel. He contributed a host of original papers to scientific literature and was joint author of several books, including, with Dr B. Foster, *Forty Years of Particle Physics* (1988).

Outside physics, his diverse interests included gardening (at which he was an expert) and meteorology, which for him was a lifelong hobby.

D. H. Perkins

**Peter Howard Fowler, physicist; born 27 February 1923; Assistant Lecturer in Physics, Bristol University 1948–51, Lecturer 1951–61, Reader 1961–64; Royal Society Research Professor in Physics 1964–81 (Emeritus); Visiting Professor, University of Minnesota 1956–57; FRS 1964; married 1949 Rosemary Henson (née Brown; three daughters); died Bristol 8 November 1996.**

## Don Kenyon



Kenyon: 'the winning habit'

Don Kenyon would have been pleased that his last appointment was with the cricket club he had served with devotion since 1946. He died yesterday after being taken ill at a Worcestershire members' meeting at the county ground at New Road.

A right-hand opening batsman and an occasional medium pace bowler, he played eight times for England and was ranked as one of the possible partners for Len Hutton if and when Cyril Washbrook was unavailable. If his recruitment for his country was fleeting, his fears for Worcestershire made him a giant figure in that handsome shire by the Severn.

Staffordshire-born, Kenyon was one of many players hastily recruited into first-class cricket immediately after the Second World War as counties strove to field first-class teams composed often of ageing pre-war players, amateurs and untried youngsters. Kenyon revealed himself as an opener of promise with a fine array of strokes, application and a cricketing brain. He was capped the following

year and began a glittering career in the dark green cap, passing 37,000 runs, scoring 74 centuries, reaching 1,000 runs a summer 19 times and seven times scoring more than 2,000. For almost 10 years he and Worcestershire were synonymous. Opposing bowlers reckoned that dismissing Kenyon was the end of half the innings.

He may have been overshadowed by the more charismatic Tom Graveney, who arrived in 1961, yet he was elegant enough in his play to be included by Neville Cardus in a list of batsmen of "style and pleasure"; at that time, a list that included Graveney, Jack Flavell, Ron Headley (son of George, father of Dean), Len Coldwell from Devon, Roy Booth from Yorkshire and a future England spinner, Norman Gifford, who

maintain morale in the dressing room. By 1965 he had also acquired a Test-class all-rounder in Basil D'Oliveira. E.W. Swanton described Kenyon's team as "the best balanced of the 17 counties" and, while there was criticism of the pitches prepared at New Road, Worcestershire claimed 11 of their 16 victories in 1964 away from home.

Tim Curtis, a later county captain, said of him: "Don gave Worcestershire the winning habit." By the time Kenyon retired from the captaincy in 1967 he had lifted the club to the front rank and his achievements were recognised nationally by an appointment as an England selector from 1965 to 1972, where he helped change the course of history by naming D'Oliveira for a tour of South Africa; the event that focused attention on apartheid – and with his appointment as MBE.

Derek Hodgson

**Donald Kenyon, cricketer; born 19 May 1924; married (two daughters); died 13 November 1996.**

turned up after answering an advertisement in the *Cricceter*. In 1962 Kenyon led Worcestershire, a club that had never won the Championship, to second place and two years later took a stature far above that of star batsman. Gradually an impressive team was put together; Graveney, Jack Flavell, Ron Headley (son of George, father of Dean), Len Coldwell from Devon, Roy Booth from Yorkshire and a future England spinner, Norman Gifford, who

joined the BBC chorus. In 1937 she sang the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* and Nannetta in *Falstaff* for Sadler's Wells Opera, and the following year gave her début recital at the Wigmore Hall. She was soon immersed in a busy career as a concert singer, working with all the leading British orchestras as well as with the BBC.

During the Second World War Catley scored a huge success in the revue *Hi-de-Hi*, presented by Jack Hylton at the Palace Theatre, which opened in June 1943 and ran for 340 performances. Catley sang Gilda's aria "Caro nome" from *Rigoletto*, with full orchestra. After the war she sang with the Carl Rosa Opera Company. She had first appeared with them in 1941, singing Gilda, and she continued to sing with the company until the 1956/57 season, almost invariably as Gilda. At the end of "Caro nome" she would "let forth a silvery high E", as one critic remarked.

Her repertory was wide-ranging, from Mozart to Johann Strauss, from Purcell to Edward

German, but, as her recordings show, her voice was particularly ill-suited to 19th-century French *opéra-comique*: Philine's "Je suis Thérèse" from *Mignon*, Juliet's song from *Gounod's Roméo et Juliette*, the Shadow song from Meyerbeer's *Dinorah*, the Bell song from *Lakmé* and Olympia's Doll song from *The Tales of Hoffmann* were all, though sung in English, stylishly performed. In 1949 she sang Catherine Glover in a BBC studio broadcast of Bizet's *The Fair Maid of Perth*, with Richard Lewis as Gil. She was born Gwendoline Florence Catley in 1906, in London, and privately educated. She studied at the Guildhall School of Music at the time when Sir Landor Ronald was its Principal; her chief singing teacher was the tenor Walter Hyde. Catley won the Gold Medal – in fact she won it twice, but was not allowed by her father to accept it on the first occasion. By the time she won it again, she was married to the cellist Allen Ford.

On leaving the GSM she

joined the BBC chorus. In 1937 she sang the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* and Nannetta in *Falstaff* for Sadler's Wells Opera, and the following year gave her début recital at the Wigmore Hall. She was soon immersed in a busy career as a concert singer, working with all the leading British orchestras as well as with the BBC.

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Elizabeth Forbes

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## Tricia Ingrams

The art of being a good radio and television interviewer is to be a good listener. Interviewees sensed Tricia Ingrams' interest in them and her gentle manner drew revealing insights. She was especially good at interviewing children. Young leukaemia sufferers or transplant patients and their families enjoyed her support long after their news value had ended.

She was born Patricia Geaney in Edgware, Middlesex, in 1946. Her parents had recently arrived from Ireland, and her father, an electrician, worked hard to establish a hardware shop and accumulated a small property portfolio. There were three more children before, suddenly, Tricia's mother died. Her father never recovered. The family was orphaned when her brothers were aged 15 and 10; her sister just nine. At the age of 18 Tricia demonstrated her formidable strength of character when she fought the battle to keep the family together.

A job with the locally produced magazine of the Spar grocery chain launched her journalistic career. Writing for various IPC magazines followed, but it was as the Sun's "Action Girl" in 1970 that she found fame. Her diminutive figure would be pictured at the wheel of a Churchill tank on Sainsbury Plan, skydiving or dressed as a Playboy Club "Bunny". The uniquely surroundings of the United Biscuits factory in west London saw the launch of her broadcasting career. Like others who went on to become household names in commercial radio she helped provide round-the-clock entertainment to the company's

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## the leader page

ilot

## When the civil service must say 'No, minister'

If Conservative ministers and party whips behave as if they own the apparatus of the state, to be revved up at their private convenience, then they have only themselves to blame when they are accordingly embarrassed by the disclosure of their actions. We report today on the House of Commons select committee examining legislation to enable the Channel Tunnel rail link to go ahead – ostensibly a prejudice-free zone, since it has to settle delicate questions of compensation for Kentish people whose houses are in the way. But now it appears as if ministers have been seeking to manipulate it. These are the colleagues of ministers who yesterday used the Department of Health to produce a "white paper" which is nothing other than a party manifesto. It contains no new policy and amounts to little more than a pre-election statement aimed at protecting the Tories' exposed flank. And that follows closely on the disclosure last weekend that Michael Heseltine wanted to use civil servants to drum up claque to shout their support of government policies.

All this comes from ministers who were once chastened enough to bring Lord Nolan in to affirm standards of conduct in public life; who, once, on pain of their political lives, had to read Sir Richard Scott's painstaking dissection of the way in which they and their officials had sailed dangerously

close to deliberate deception of the House of Commons. All this, moreover, from ministers who make such a song and dance about the loss of sovereign parliamentary powers to unaccountable Brussels bureaucrats, and who are wont to lecture the Scots and the Welsh on the ideal of parliamentary government which they all stand to lose if they persist in demanding alternative institutions.

It is not enough to say, with world-weary disdain, that such power plays are a natural and inevitable feature of government. In reality, as Nolan and others have recognised, our parliamentary system works best if there are periodic changes of government, and many of these shades of abuse arise from the Conservative Party's complicity in power. A sense that the health of the system depends on alternation in power is broadly diffused among the British public. Seventeen years in power is dangerous. Even ministers, when better selves prevail, recognise this. Why else did the Government promise last week to table a House of Commons resolution setting out, for the first time in this public fashion, a clear statement of ministers' duties, notably in treating the House of Commons with the respect of the truth?

If a non-Conservative government is elected (and it remains an "if"), it will not of itself expunge all traces of

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the notion that might is right. Labour or Liberal Democrat ministers would also be very tempted to grab the wheels and levers of the Whitehall and parliamentary machine, and manipulate it to their ends. All the more reason to be vigilant. Peter Hennessy's adage that proper procedure is all the constitution we have is essentially correct: our system of government is a covenant based on implicit rules. Among them is the distinction between work that public officials do on behalf of a duly constituted government, and work that serves the ends of party. The very authority of

this, or any alternative government, depends on ordinary people believing that government works in the general interest. That sentiment depends in turn on the belief that the government's staff (those for whom public service is a career) are disinterested. We may still laugh at that terribly anachronistic picture of Sir Humphrey, but we are glad in the knowledge that he cannot be bought or twisted.

That is the reason why the system will always need figures as bold as Sir David Ramsbotham, the chief inspector of prisons. Sir David is not

a civil servant, but the pleasure we register in his independence of mind is all the greater given his previous career as a ducal soldier. If the Home Secretary appointed him thinking him a cat's-paw, all the more credit to him for getting his claws out. Chris Woodhouse of the Office for Standards in Education should note: the effectiveness of inspection correlates inversely with the deference of inspectors to the whims and wishes of ministers. Such independence is a precious quality: too much and it tips over into unaccountability; too little and it becomes an empty label for lackeys.

Civil servants are not independent in the way that inspectors are. Rather, their job is to carry out the instructions of those who attain ministerial office and do so with diligence and enthusiasm. If Labour comes to power, it too will want this job definition fulfilled. But civil servants are bound to uphold the law. We rely on them to follow those unseen but vital conventions that, for example, censure any attempt to deceive Parliament. Sir Robin Butler's rejection of Michael Heseltine's bid to use civil servants as cheerleaders shows the neutrality convention is still in force. It, and Sir Robin, are likely to be tested further in the weeks before the election, for example over partisan use of the Government Information Service. Just as Parliament must be wary of allowing party

loyalty to override the protection of MPs' independence of mind, so Sir Robin must be careful to ensure that his civil servants' professional commitment does not veer towards another kind of commitment altogether.

## Deep thought, but very little nous

**O**ne Spade, Two Diamonds, Three Gigabytes. Last year, a computer beat Garry Kasparov at chess; now at Edinburgh University the machines are taking up bridge. But it may take 30 years before machines become a threat to the best human players. Some say computers make bad bridge partners because they cannot cope with the guesswork involved. But human bridge-players also have to guess. The real human advantage lies in our talent for merriment. Computer bridge players assume their human opponents act rationally. One small bluff, a "false card" or a "psychic" bid, may throw them completely off course. The word "trickery" itself comes from the card table, and trickery exposes the naivety of artificial intelligence. That is why computers are unlucky at cards: no hearts.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Tax on free parking will end gridlock

Sir: John Redwood ("How I would free drivers from gridlock", 12 November) rightly highlights the fact that Berkshire County Council "provides free parking places to its employees, 91 per cent of whom drive to work". But why leave it there, with its sly implication that this is a failing of those local authorities that it is such fun to bash? Why not develop the same theme to include all urban-based employers?

I was appointed as a member of the first Acbe (Advisory Committee for Business and the Environment) by two of Mr Redwood's colleagues, Michael Heseltine and Peter Lilley, and constantly urged its Global Warming Working Group to consider recommending that employees' free parking places should be considered as taxable benefits: say, at £20 a day in central London.

I found that the majority of such free spaces provided by my then-employer were used by those who merely used their cars to commute or, worse still, to move a few miles around London on journeys that could be done in less time by tube/bus/walking. My suggestion did not make it into Acbe reports, but I am sure that to treat free parking provision as a taxable benefit would make a lot of beneficiaries reconsider their commuting arrangements.

Considering that free home-to-office mileage is often included, perhaps really committed employers – certainly all of those signed up to the Government's *Making a Corporate Commitment* – should alter their free parking perk to paying for free parking at home/railway stations. One benefit would be that those rushing to the 9am meeting would at least have read the meeting documents beforehand.

ROBERT J JONES  
Energy Policy Studies  
Chelmsford, Essex

Sir: Just when I thought a Tory MP could say nothing to surprise me, John Redwood offered his "solution" to overcrowded roads.

While I support his propositions to get more people on their feet or on public transport, I was incensed by his attack on traffic-calming measures such as bollards, chicane and speed cameras. Why on earth does Mr Redwood think that so many counties and boroughs have "gone mad, spending a fortune" on these things?

Traffic-calming is now widespread because so many motorists deliberately flout speed restrictions, thereby endangering the lives of pedestrians and other motorists. Yes, it slows drivers down, because that is exactly what it is meant to do. If the likes of Mr Redwood are irritated by such "clutter", bad luck.

As a mother of three I am heartily sick of people speeding through our village without a moment's thought for who might lie in their path, and wholeheartedly support any measures which force them to slow down. If you don't like it, Mr Redwood, get on your bike.

EMMA HAUGHTON  
Uphame Traffic Action Group  
Uphame, Devon

Sir: I was interested to read John Redwood's comments on the ever-increasing problem of traffic congestion. It is a shame that Mr Redwood should criticise councils



that are trying to find solutions, especially when they come to the same conclusion – shift people from car to bus and train – that the ex-minister himself does.

Bollards, chicane, red road surfaces, traffic lights and speed cameras may not be the only instruments for traffic calming, but they are certainly measures that reduce the speed of cars. One man's traffic-calming may well be another man's road rage, but without such traffic-calming measures, it could be another child's road accident.

One idea that Mr Redwood did not explore was legislation to reduce the amount of traffic. This week the Road Traffic Reduction Bill has been chosen as a Private Members Bill by the Liberal Democrat MP Don Foster. It will be interesting to see how Mr Redwood reacts.

We all know there is a problem of road traffic congestion. With the Road Traffic Reduction Bill, MPs now have the opportunity to do something constructive about it. I encourage readers to lobby their MPs to support this Bill – especially if that MP is John Redwood.

MATTHEW TAYLOR MP  
Liberal Democrat Environment  
Spokesman  
House of Commons  
London SW1

Sir: John Redwood recognises that the traffic problem is catastrophic, but thinks the central solution is the removal of a few bollards. London's transport can run much more efficiently – through road pricing. But that is something this government is simply not prepared to face up to.

EMILY BULMAN  
Leeds

## Saro-Wiwa had wealth already

Sir: Ken Saro-Wiwa was executed for campaigning against one of the world's largest corporations, and one of the world's most corrupt and oppressive regimes.

Ken was indeed no saint – who is? To suggest that he made his fortune from corruption is absurd. Saro-Wiwa was one of Africa's most highly regarded authors, who created and wrote amongst many things the soap opera *Bast & Co*. This long-running series is still one of the most watched programmes in the world. To claim that Saro-Wiwa started this campaign as a "useful route to fame and wealth" when he was already both famous and wealthy is absurd.

Richard North ("Can you be sure of Ken Saro Wiwa?", 8 November) describes Ogoniland as just a "patch of the swampy Niger delta". He would think that wouldn't be flying over the area in a Shell helicopter? The delta used to be known as the breadbasket of Nigeria, such was the fertility of the land and the abundance of fish in the water. Now large parts of the land are so polluted that it will not support crops for years to come, and the fish stocks have collapsed.

It is too late for Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other eight Ogoni men executed one year ago. It is not too late for Shell to exercise its immense responsibility over the Nigerian government to ensure that more proceeds from the

extraction of Ogoni oil go to the Ogoni, and to bring about a fair trial for the Ogoni 19 who are currently in jail on trumped-up charges.

RICHARD BAGNALL  
Chairman, Association of Heads of Grant-Maintained Schools  
Chigwell, Essex

## National funding benefits pupils

Sir: Your front-page story and leading article on 12 November tackled the politics of educational funding.

Currently, the education of all the nation's children is prescribed by a National Curriculum with a National Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs. Performance is monitored by national league tables and by the national Ofsted framework, while the single biggest budgetary commitment (75 per cent-plus) is teachers' salaries, again paid by national pay scales.

It really is time that the funding of pupils in schools was related to some national entitlement within the context of a national funding formula.

It has only been since the creation of the grant-maintained sector that schools in different LEA areas have been in a position to compare budgets, most notably via the Common Funding Formula. This has shown that children in very comparable schools in very comparable LEA areas can have

huge disparity of funding – differences of 20 per cent and more are commonplace.

G PHIPSON  
Chairman, Association of Heads of Grant-Maintained Schools  
Chigwell, Essex

## Phone museum Back to Bell

Sir: Further to your article (5 November) about the uncertain future of the unprofitable but remarkable telephone museum that forms part of British Telecom's public sector legacy, you write that a major problem for the museum will be its future lack of a home, and that its current location, in the heart of London, is little known and less visited.

Our flat here on the corner of Edinburgh shares South Charlotte Street with, at one end, a British Telecom showroom (facing the castle), and at the other end (Charlotte Square), the house where Alexander Graham Bell was born. The only commemoration of this remarkable man in Edinburgh that I know of is the plaque on this house.

ALAN MATTINGLY  
Director  
The Ramblers' Association  
London SW1

Apart from the Georgian House museum and the headquarters of the Scottish National Trust, Charlotte Square is largely vacated, and tenants are sought. Are there not numerous arguments for relocating the telephone museum to this place of its origin?

PAUL SANKEY  
Edinburgh

## A walk in the German woods

Sir: L Gregory (letter, 9 November) argues that the "right to roam" is promoted by those who refuse to recognise "that land is not primarily for the occasional recreation of casual users".

I know of no one who would argue that casual recreation is what land is primarily for. The Ramblers' Association certainly does not put forward such an argument.

What we do say is that members of the public should be able to wander freely through woodland and over uncultivated countryside, as long as they treat the land with due care and respect.

This principle has already been enacted in a number of other European countries. The House of Commons Environment Committee, for example, found that in Germany not only does the law allowing public access to all woodlands work perfectly well, but representatives of private owners of woodland have no objection to it.

VASSILIS PAPASTRAVROU  
Bristol

Sir: On reading your report I went to consult Asimov's *New Guide to Science*. I found that in the index there was just one reference to Hubble – on page 42.

J S ARTHUR  
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

Sir: If the answer to everything really is 42, as scientists – along with Zaphod Beeblebrox – are now claiming, this accounts for Tony Blair's hair crisis. Mr Blair was 43 on 6 May.

ED HOOSON  
Wantage, Oxfordshire  
London N1

## analysis

# Back to school for mum and dad

Labour's Jack Straw wants politicians involved in parenting. But, Jack O'Sullivan asks, does the nanny state really know what's best?

**J**ack Straw's idea that the state should be telling parents how to look after their children will raise a few wry smiles. Who said the "nanny state" was dead? The Shadow Home Secretary would like the court to be able to order the parents of delinquents to be properly trained in their caring craft. He also called for a voluntary network of parent advice groups to be established for the rest of us.

Yet the state is in no position to point the finger at poor parents. It is, after all, the worst parent of all - talk to a few children who have been in council care and you will often get a tale of misery that can compete with life under the most Dickensian parents. And who trusts guidance from politicians, a group whose failure to regulate their own hours in the House of Commons mark them out as some of the worst offenders in absentee parenting?

Indeed, when politicians start talking about improving families, you wonder are they really just privatising their own responsibilities. You also wonder are they really committed to providing the cash resources for childcare and shorter working hours which would really improve the lot of children. This is, after all, the week in which the Government registered its implacable opposition to a 48-hour working week, a limit which would have direct bearing on how much time fathers, in particular, can expect to spend with the children.

Labour is more pro-family

than the Government, supporting maternity leave and the 48 hour limit. But would Mr Straw back the radical measures adopted in Scandinavia, which give men and women lengthy parental leave during the first years of a child's life?

There is also the question of which model of parenting ought to be adopted. Should we, for example, rely on the authoritarian views of Aristophanes?

In the 5th century BC, the Greek philosopher declared:

"Come listen now to the good old days, when children, strong to tell, were seen not heard, led a simple life, in short, were well brought up."

Perhaps John Wesley divined the secret. "In order to form the minds of children," he said, "the first thing to be done is to conquer their will ... The parent who indulges it does the devil's work ... Break his will now, and his soul will live, and he will probably bless you to all eternity."

Or was the advice in *The Lady* a century ago closer to the mark? "One of the most important and beneficial habits that can be taught a child in early life is to keep its mouth shut when sleeping and indeed at all times, when eating or speaking."

The trouble is that fashions in child-rearing change at an extraordinary rate. In this century, Jean Piaget's identification of the stages of childhood development, combined with Freud's view that childhood experience profoundly shapes the adult, have made child-rearing a delicate and complex task. But opinions about how to go about that

task have varied wildly even in the past few decades, from Truby King in the Forties and Fifties, who counselled against spoiling a child ("The boy who is picked up and fed whenever he cries soon becomes a veritable tyrant") to Benjamin Spock, who cautioned against the damage that children suffered if they were not cared for at all times (he is still being psychoanalysed in New York at the age of 93).

Where, for example, should parenting instructors stand on the question of disciplining children? There has been a fashion since the Second World War of relaxing the rules that children had been required to obey. But there is now a backlash led by writers such as the Australian expert, Christopher Green, author of *Toddler Taming*, calling for tougher controls. Christina Hardymon, the controversial British author of *Perfect Parents*, is part of a new wave of thinking which challenges recent theories in favour of more traditional, less indulgent parenting.

Yet, despite all the disagreement about the best forms of parenting, there is little dissent about either its importance or difficulties that many families face in raising their children. To this extent, Jack Straw has caught the mood of the times. Parents want more knowledge.

It is, however, quite hard to find anyone to talk to. Antenatal care in this country is good. GP clinics and the National Childbirth Trust offer good courses in preparing for birth. But it is very difficult to find a parenting course.

Between the ages of one and five, when children start school, most parents are virtually abandoned by support services.

"Once you have your baby, you find yourself saying: 'Oh God, what do I do now?'" says Hetty Einzig, Development Officer of the Parenting Education and Support Forum.

But parenting courses are beginning to be established around the country. In prisons, for example, they are the most popular courses among young men. Schools are experimenting with training teenagers to care for children. "Little Moss Lads Learn To Be Dads," was how one local newspaper reported a pilot scheme in Greater Manchester schools, run by The Children's Society. In five schools, 14-18-year-olds have been debating issues such as different forms of corporal punishment, the problems for chil-

dren of separation and how they feel about how their parents deal with them.

Annette Mountford, executive co-ordinator of the Oxford-based Family Nurturing Network, runs a 15-week programme for families referred by teachers or social workers. It specialises in "positive parenting", offering alternative forms of control to corporal punishment and shouting. "Typically, the parents are desperate. They don't know what to do because the kids are running rings around them," she says.

Parents learn how to present a child with a choice. "Say a child is fighting. You present him with a choice. He can play or he can carry on fighting. If he carries on fighting then he has to take two minutes' time out. It might be sitting on the step. It might take an hour to get him through the time out, because it only starts when he is quiet. But

in the end, it's effective. It distances the parent and the child in the heat of the moment. The parent can deal with the child with dignity rather than hitting him or going out of control."

Mr Mountford argues that "it would be better if we could get to families earlier and prevent them getting into this downward spiral. If we can deal with children when they are four, we can turn them around quickly. By eight or nine they are very distressed."

Pippin, a charity which for the past two years has provided free advice classes for new parents, is beginning to fill this gap. "All the research shows that parents are facing a great deal of stress," says Penny Henderson, a group facilitator for Pippin, which wants the NHS and councils to fund its services.

"Geographical mobility means that few parents have extended families close by or the

experience of being around children as they were growing up. If you have been a computer operator for 10 years or a prison officer or a seaman, you might not have spent a lot of time with children. You may have forgotten the drudgery of caring for them 24 hours a day or never even known it."

The changing fashions in child-rearing can also cause difficulties, she says. Two parents may find that they have been brought up with very different techniques of child-rearing. So they need to sort out what to do. If they themselves had a difficult time in childhood, if they did not have their needs met, then they may need help.

When the baby cries, for example, you may be tempted to shove the bottle in its mouth

because you may not be able to bear the unrelieved half-memory of your own neglect."

Pippin's philosophy is based

on the ideas of Daniel Stern, who last year published *The Motherhood Constellation*. It argues that pregnancy and the period immediately after birth offers a unique opportunity for a mother to deal with problems arising out of her own upbringing which can get in the way of providing good care for her child. The same may well be true for fathers.

What distinguishes all these courses is that they are non-didactic, a point Mr Straw should take on board. They tend to be more concerned about giving parents new ways of thinking about their craft, rather than laying down a fixed path. The childcare specialist, Penelope Leach, demonstrated the dangers of rigid systems when she wrote: "Rearing a child by the book - by any set of rules or pre-determined ideas - can work well if the rules you choose to follow fit the baby you happen to have. But even a minor misfit between the two can be a misery."

The other characteristic is that these courses do not stigmatise parenthood as some sort of pathological condition responsible for all the country's woes. One fear is that Jack Straw, in his zeal to be seen tackling crime, will lump the blame on parents.

He is right to see a connection between crime and parenting. A forthcoming paper by David Utting of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation identifies the following family factors as producing a greater risk of delinquency: poor supervision, harsh or erratic discipline, absence of a biological parent, siblings or parents in trouble with the law, and low family income.

A support programme for low-income mothers in New York involving home visits by professionals giving advice on health, nutrition, child development and parenting reduced delinquency among the children considerably when compared with the matched control group.

But if Mr Straw allows parental instruction to be meted out as a punishment to the parents of delinquents his action could have disastrous results. Parental advisors could be stigmatised just as social workers have become stereotyped as the last group of professionals that parents in difficulty would consult.

Mr Straw's interest in parents is welcome - they need it. But blaming them for all ills is a dated and unhelpful strategy. As David Herbert points out in *Setting Limits Promoting Positive Parenting*, it was an ancient Egyptian inscription, 6,000 years ago, which first complained: "Our earth is degenerate. Children no longer obey their parents."

Hopefully, Mr Straw will have a more progressive attitude.

*Parenting Education and Support Forum, 8 Wakeley St, London EC1V 7QE.*

*Pippin: "Derwood", Todds Green, Stevenage, Herts SG12 7QE.*

*Family Nurturing Network, Unit 12F, Minns Estate, 7 West Way, Boote, Oxford OX2 0JF.*

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## Revealed: the secret life of a camera crew



Miles Kington

A TV film crew went round the Royal Opera House for a year, filming everything. A TV film crew went round the Victoria and Albert Museum for ages filming everything. TV film crews have been going round royal palaces filming everything for as long as we can remember. Is there nothing left for film crews to follow round?

Yes, there is, as a matter of fact. The one thing that a film crew has never followed round is another film crew, and for the past 12 months I have been working with

crew that has done precisely that. The result, a 12-part series called *In Camera*, unerringly captures the feeling of what it's like working with a top quality film crew.

Don't believe me?

Here's a typical extract from this epic undertaking:

MORNING. GREY DAWN. A BATTERED VOLVO ARRIVES AT THE EDGE OF A LARGE FIELD. TWO MEN GET OUT AND START SHIVERING. THEY ARE JOHN THE CAMERAMAN AND RON THE SOUND MAN.

John: Get the stuff out the back, would you, Ron?

Ron: Get your own blooming stuff out.

John: OK, OK, just joking. Keep your hair on ... Where's the van?

Ron: Refreshment van. I couldn't find a half-murder a cup of tea.

Ron: There's no refreshment van. This isn't bleeding *Pride and Prejudice*. We're not on big-time location.

John: What are we doing, then?

Ron: We're doing a short piece to camera for *Rural Rides Revisited*.

John: Nor did I.

A LONG PAUSE. JOHN SETS UP A TRIPOD. HE TAKES IT DOWN AGAIN. RON PUTS ON A PAIR OF HEADPHONES.

John: What are you recording?

THERE IS NO ANSWER.

John: (Shouting) What Are You Recording?

RON SEES HIS LIPS MOVING AND TAKES HIS HEADPHONES OFF.

Ron: Sorry. Didn't hear you.

Had these headphones on.

John: What are you recording?

Ron: Don.

John: The one that keeps scratching his mike?

Ron: I'll drown him if he starts scratching his mike again today. He must sodding know his blooming mike is stuck in his jersey, so why does he scratch his chest?

John: Why not put the mike somewhere else?

Ron: I know where I'd like to put it.

John: I hope they turn up before the lights get any worse. See that programme on telly last night?

Ron: What are we doing, then?

AN HOUR PASSES.

JOHN AND RON ARE STILL THERE. NOBODY ELSE HAS TURNED UP.

John: ... Anyway, there were nine of us altogether in the car, and we all had a cup of tea each, and when the waitress came, we said,

"Could we have nine separate bills, please, so we can claim separate expenses?" and you should have seen her face!

Ron: Did I ever tell you about the time this Thai restaurant gave us a receipt for \$3,500 by mistake?

John: Yes.

Ron: Do you want to hear it again?

John: No.

Ron: Where are they, for crying out loud?

A MOBILE PHONE STARTS RINGING.

Ron: Phone. Not mine.

Must be yours.

John: (answering phone)

Hello ... Yes ... No, we've been here for hours. Where are you? What field? Hold on ... (to Ron) Get the map, won't you?

RON GETS THE MAP PROTESTINGLY. JOHN SPREADS IT OUT.

John: Yeah ... yeah ... Oh, that field. Right, sec you.

Ron: What's the story?

John: Wrong place. Jump in the car. I'll tell you. (He turns to camera.) You coming?

Hot stuff, eh? And there's another 1½ hours where that came from!

العمل

## Labour can gain from the 48-hour watershed

**T**he most telling moment in the aftermath of this week's European Court Judgment upholding the 48-hour week was the Commons intervention of the criminal barrister Sir Ivan Lawrence. Lawrence is a rock-solid and belligerent MP of the old Tory right. He's a populist, all right, but he isn't on the extreme edge of Euroscepticism by Tory standards. He wasn't, for example, a whiney rebel. Yet he suggested that Europe should be told that "if we are not to get fair play ... we are prepared to leave the European Union". If he had said that five years ago, it would have caused a sensation. On this occasion there wasn't even a murmur of protest.

If nothing else, Lawrence's excitable response is a reminder of just how euphoric his backbenchers – and his super-fickle supporters among Tory editors and proprietors – are now that John Major has a tailor-made European issue to be tough about. It unites the Tory party because it strikes at its ideologically non-interventionist heart.

The Prime Minister has a real case, which is that the 48-hour directive was forced through as a Health and Safety measure simply in order to avoid the British veto. It is far from mere fantasy to suppose that he can secure, as part of the inter-governmental negotiations on the EU's future, a political decision that will in effect reverse the court judgment. In short, and in contrast to the miserable episode of BSE for which Douglas Hogg bore the parliamentary brunt in an Opposition censure debate in the Commons yesterday, he could actually win.

What's more the 48-hour week has provided a *cavus bellum*, when the IGC threatened to be rather free of others in the run-up to the election. The Foreign Office view, for some time, has been that Britain's EU partners would try to avoid showdowns with Major in the run-up to the election, precisely because they feared that Labour would simply follow them into whatever Euro-sceptic trench the Prime Minister chose to inhabit. And that if they did, it would be all the more difficult for Tony Blair to do deals if and when he won the election. Here, by contrast, was an issue on which Tony Blair could not fail, because of Labour's natural constituency, to play the pro-European card and so open up clear water between himself and the Tories. And in the process break his own campaign rules by alienating newspapers like the *Sun* and the *Daily Mail* which so fulsomely praised Major yesterday.

But is this a threat or an opportunity for Labour? Blair can defend the 48-hour measure on its own merits without buying into the whole employee protection agenda now threatened by the EU social affairs commissioner Padraig



Donald Macintyre

Now that the Tories may have finally found their clear blue water, Tony Blair is free to swim to Europe

Flynn. But, the 48-hour issue may also prove a watershed.

Those close to Tony Blair strongly deny it, but there have been distinct signs of a muting of Labour's pro-European rhetoric over the past few months. Take EMU, for example. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, surfaces from time to time and gives strong and lightly coded indications that he is against going into the single currency in the first wave – though not with such vehemence that he would have to resign if it happened. Gordon Brown gets a bit cross behind the scenes. But the headlines stick, especially in an approving Euro-sceptic press, and the impression is allowed to run that Labour wouldn't go in during the first wave. Labour might well not go in a first wave, though there is no sign that Tony Blair has made up his mind on the issue. The headlines may be helpful now, but they carry a danger, too: if Labour did want to go in with the first wave, it would be all the more difficult to condition public opinion to the idea in the short time that will be available after the election.

This is only an example: EMU isn't the only show in town, though it is the one currently preoccupying Europe to the exclusion of most others. But it illustrates a larger and, perhaps, counter-intuitive point: that Labour's best response is attack rather than defence. It's not just that it cannot outflank the Tories in Euroscepticism – as perhaps it can on law and order – even if it wanted to. Public opinion doesn't exist in a vacuum; it responds to political leadership. And circumstances, as well as conviction, continue to dictate that Labour is the party to restore Britain's political capital in Europe.

Labour can legitimately point out that the drain of British influence in Europe has reduced its capacity to secure objectives the Government shares with the other Westminster parties. For example, there is the prosaic but hugely important issue of reforming the Common Agricultural Policy. The presence of the IGC Lawrence – not to mention the Norman Lamonts or the dozens of MPs who will defy Government policy by ruling out the single currency in their election addresses – actually makes it easier for Labour to argue that Britain has to decide whether it wants to be in or out, and if the answer is in, that Labour is the party to restore Britain's political capital in Europe.

The Europe envisaged by Tony Blair is not so different, perhaps, from the one that John Major and Kenneth Clarke, left entirely to themselves, would choose. But there is nothing shameful about offering a new start in trying to achieve it. This week, in preparation for his trip to see President Chirac, Blair gave one or two interviews to the Paris press in French. It is a tiny, but rather refreshing, start.

## Targeting the new proletariat



Could middle-class insecurity open the way to a British version of right-wing populism, asks Richard Gott

because at the very moment when this group is growing larger and politically ever more significant, it is also becoming dramatically squeezed – by falling incomes and eroded prestige. The old question of the proletarianisation of the middle class is now high up on the political agenda.

The Labour Party must be hoping that this ideologically unanchored group in society will move in their direction. Yet it could equally well drift to the extreme right.

Anecdotally, everyone is familiar with the problem. At the very moment when large numbers of people are out of work, those in work have to work twice as hard. Long hours, evenings spilling into weekends, uncertainties about the future, the need to run ever faster to stand in the same place – these are the common experiences of almost every workplace. For women, in particular, the endless juggling of work and home – the family, the school and the shopping cen-

tre – creates a sense of oppression undreamt of by earlier generations.

This experience of exploitation and uncertainty forms the background of several recent studies on the culture and oppressions of work. Charles Handy, pioneer of "upside-down thinking", has specifically targeted the employees of large corporations, explaining to them what they already sense – that their world is changing dramatically. "Like the centrally planned economies of the old communist world," he writes in *The Age of Unreason*, "these centrally planned organisations are also discovering ... that the old ways which worked quite well in the past are no longer cost-effective." They have been obliged to rethink the way they get work done.

Anthony Sampson, in his book on the internal crisis of the corporations, *Company Man*, published last year, depicts the fate of the vac-

tums of reshaped capitalism in tragic tones. The "company man", once upheld as the most significant social creation of the 20th century, is now perceived as "the most vulnerable" member of the middle class, liable to be cast on the scrapheap at any moment – when once he had a job for life.

"Behind all the language of downsizing and reducing head counts," writes Sampson, "were individual human tragedies which received little publicity or sympathy. Dignified figures in the office suddenly found themselves no longer noticed or valued as they were ousted by highly paid young upstarts; they could be asked to clear their desk in a morning, and be shut out from the building which had been their village for half their lifetime."

While the collapse of Communism and of the Soviet Union clearly marked an end to the era of the big state bureaucracies, it also seems to have prefigured, in some strange symbiotic way, the end of the large capitalist corporation as well. Nor is the "company man" alone. His fate has been paralleled within the institutional ruins of the nationalised industries and the welfare state. The serried ranks of Nupu and Nalgo, the ill-paid membership of the public service unions, have undergone similar experiences in the past decade, with very little in terms of a financial cushion.

Middle management has also suffered. There was a time when a job in the state sector brought a certain sense of status – working for the public good, with perhaps a medal at the end to make up for a meagre salary. Now those insubstantial rewards have gone.

The present sense of economic insecurity and social uncertainty among the middle class might in theory lead it towards a progressive politics. Yet its chief characteristic at present is an acute distrust of the political system. Its political alienation is just as likely to fuel a populism of the right. Britain has been relatively protected from the growth of right-wing movements elsewhere, but there is no guarantee that we will not see the emergence of a home-grown Jean-Marie Le Pen, or Jorg Haide, or New Gingrich.

Any fresh political programme in the post-socialist era will, of course, have to build on popular discontents wherever they are to be found. But if the left does not try to locate them and remedy them – and perceive that both labour and capital are in trouble – the task will certainly fall to the right.

## the commentators

*You could feel the silence spreading across the supermarket, like a great engine winding down*

**john walsh**



and sniff. Then the male drops a sperm package, which gets a perverse thrill out of abandoning their children in a supermarket play area, so they can whizz uncumbered around the aisles, hoping to collide trolleys with their local MP, and tell them about the need to ban movies they haven't seen because they know – they *really* know – what people want to watch in the cinema...

T

Great encounters of our time. Two giants of the interview circuit run into each other, apparently for the first time, on Saturday at the launch party of Redmond O'Hanlon's *Congo Journey*, the twinkly-spectacled zoologist's crazed foray into the heart of Notherresville in search of the Lost Dinosaur of Lake Télo. The party was at Pelican House, O'Hanlon's Oxfordshire mansion, and featured a Redmondian slew of literati (Salman Rushdie, Julian Barnes, Will Self, Craig Raine) and scientists (Richard Dawkins, Jonathan Kingdon). Martin Amis couldn't come because he and Isabel Fonseca had just had a baby (Fernanda) but Ian McEwan managed to jet over from the swamps of Louisiana, where they're currently filming his story *First Love Last Rites* (it's set, as far as I remember, in Clapham). Galen Strawson, the Oxford philosopher, had a brief conversation with his old student Will Self, the saurian gourmet, and suffered a crippling anxiety attack immediately afterwards. The scientist looked on with faint distaste as the arty tendency flew around kissing each other unhygienically. Wondering what exactly scientists talk about when off duty, a friend eavesdropped on Professor Tim Halliday, an expert on the sex life of the newt, and discovered him talking about – just that ("It's all a matter of whip, fan, flesh

supposed to do. My road in Dulwich is regularly patrolled by a brace of foxes, but they never show signs of wanting to climb on anything except a bin and each other. What intrigues me about the bitten baby story is the insistence of a chap called Trevor Williams, of the Fox Project, that the child's injuries "are totally inconsistent with a fox-bite... They sound much more like a cat's scratch." So, let me get this straight, Inspector. When the Norbury fox was found sitting on the scratched baby, it didn't mean the fox was responsible for the scratches; it meant a cat had done the evil deed, then scarpered leaving the fox holding, as it were, the smoking gun... Bloody hell. Non-operational greylag geese, innocent fall-guy foxes and infantile pussies. Time to call in Redmond O'Hanlon...



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BUSINESS &amp; CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Football moneyspinner: Murdoch team in pay-per-view talks with clubs as league chief's £100,000 bonus is revealed

## Premiership set for £10-a-match BSkyB deal

Mathew Horsman  
and Patrick Tooher

BSkyB executives are holding informal talks with several top football clubs about introducing pay-per-view broadcasts of the Premiership games as early as next year.

The talks, which are still at an early stage, could see Saturday matches transmitted on a pay-as-you-go basis at £10 a time, generating millions for Sky and the Premiership. Currently, only Sunday and Monday matches are televised live on the Sky Sports channel.

Meanwhile, it emerged last night that Premiership chief executive Rick Parry, who negotiated the recently agreed four-year, £670m exclusive pay-TV deal, was paid a bonus of more than £100,000 upon its signing. The broadcast contract, however, has not yet been ratified by all the clubs.

Under the contract, which only covers subscription television rights and runs from the start of next season, the Premiership agreed to discuss the introduction of pay-per-view after two years. But sources at the league said last night there was nothing to stop earlier moves to the new format.

"Pay-per-view is always an option," said a spokesman for the league. "It is an on-going part of the present and new contracts, but no date has been set for its introduction and it can't be done without the blessing of the Premiership." He said no deal was being sought at the moment.

Parry: Received £100,000 bonus for television deal

According to football and broadcasting sources, the early move to pay-per-view is being driven in part by fears that the Restrictive Practices Court could intervene, insisting that the exclusive deal be torn up, and replaced with contracts between Sky and individual clubs.

Sky is keen to ensure it retains rights to British football, which have been the prime engine of its spectacular growth in the UK market. According to the most recent figures, there are 5.65 million Sky subscribers, of whom two-thirds take the premium sport channels.

Premiership chairmen are also seeking to develop the pay-per-view market as soon as possible to cash in on revenues that could exceed £2.5bn a year. It is understood that top clubs, including Newcastle and Manchester United, are leading efforts to build a pay-per-view market as soon as possible.

On the existing analogue system, where capacity remains limited, full-scale pay-per-view movies and sport would be difficult to accommodate. However, selected football matches, for instance crucial league games, could be shown on a trial basis late this season.

Next year, Sky intends to launch its digital satellite service, offering up to 200 channels, of which perhaps 60 will be reserved for pay-per-view services.

If the court rules against the current contract, other broadcasters could return to the fray, seeking their own deals with the Premiership. The court is expected to decide by summer.

Man United alone could earn as much as £90m a season, even after it splits the revenues with Sky. "The sooner it happens, the better off everybody is going to be," a source close to the club said yesterday.

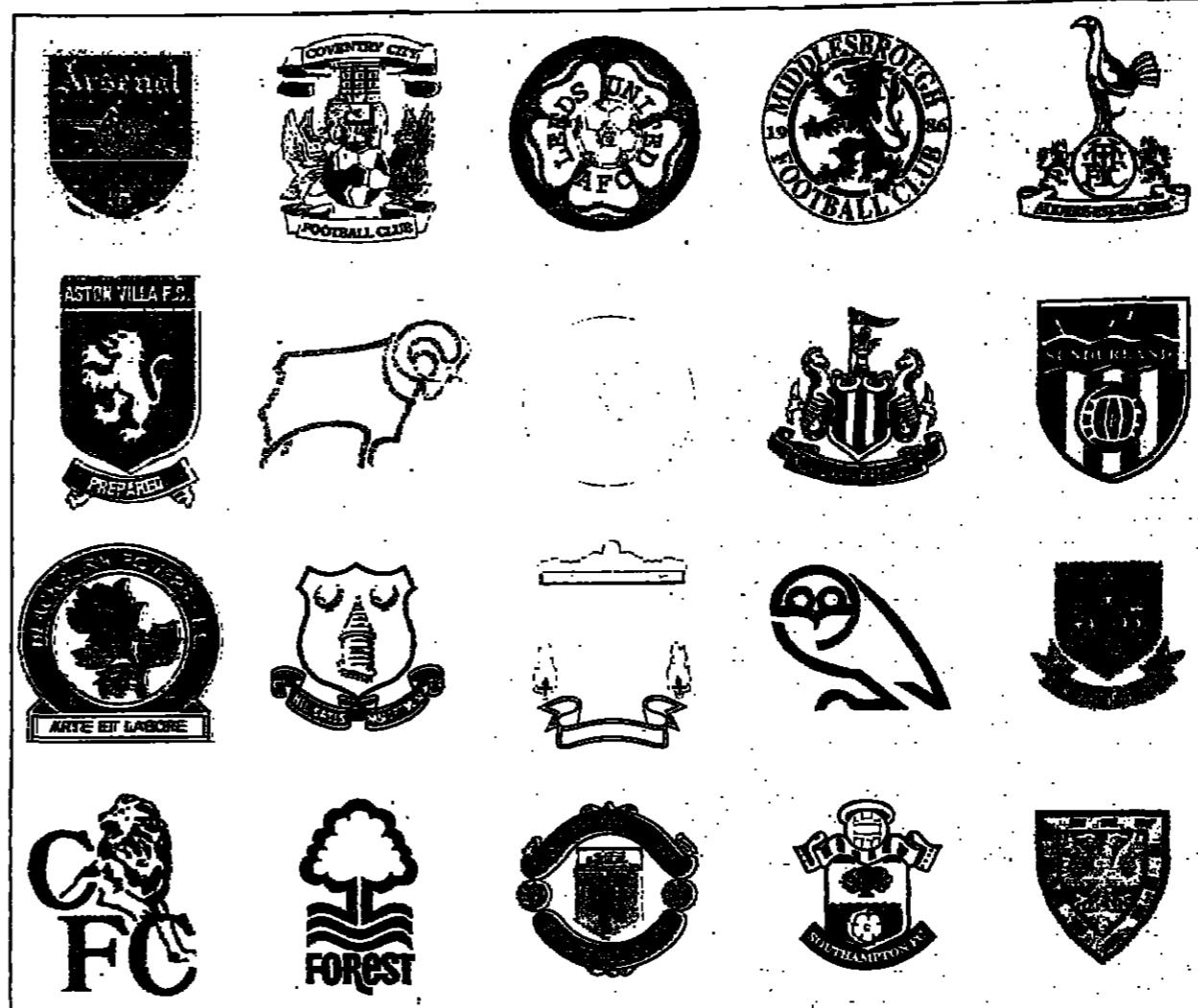
Early results from France, where pay-per-view football was introduced this season, suggest take-up rates can reach as high as 20 per cent of subscribers equipped to receive the service.

The success of Sky's early experiments with pay-per-view boxing, including last weekend's contest between Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield, was also being seen by both Sky and the Premiership as proof that British viewers are willing to pay extra for premium sporting events. More than 42,000 paid up to £14.95 to watch the fight.

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Put up for the Premiership: Clubs are talking informally with BSkyB about pay-per-view deals to broadcast matches

## Chelsea in talks to raise £30m

Nigel Cope

Chelsea Village, the parent company of Chelsea football club, said yesterday that it is in talks with several parties to secure £30m of fresh financing.

The funds will be used to continue the development of the club's West London ground, Stamford Bridge.

The development work includes a new west stand, a sports and leisure centre, a hotel and a railway station near the ground.

Nigel Shaw said it was not yet clear if any shares in Chelsea would change hands.

Ken Bates, the club's chairman, holds a significant stake. Matthew Harding, the vice chairman and benefactor, was killed in a helicopter crash last month, controlled 25 per cent.

The news of the £30m funding will be a big boost to the club, which was rocked by Harding's death. The loss cast doubt on Chelsea's ability to complete the revamp of Stamford Bridge.

The club suffered a boardroom bust-up last week, which saw the resignation of director Peter Middleton, head of Salmon Brothers' European operations.

Mr Bates said yesterday that Mr Middleton, a former chief executive of Lloyd's of London, had "delusions of grandeur".

Chelsea Village shares closed up 2p at 119.5p. The shares were floated at 55p.

## Falling jobless figure alarms markets

Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by more than 40,000 last month to 2,030,000, the lowest for five and a half years. The headline total is almost certain to fall below the symbolic 2 million level within the next month or two.

Even though the official figure understates the true level of joblessness, the undeniable evidence that the labour market is getting tighter alarmed the financial markets. They reckon that base rates will have to rise again, although opinions were divided about whether this would be before or after the election.

Minutes of the 23 September meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, confirmed yesterday that the Bank had started to press

for higher rates a month before the Chancellor agreed.

A further rise in interest rates, following the quarter point rise earlier this month, would trigger a round of mortgage increases. The Nationwide on Tuesday became the first big lender to increase its standard mortgage rate.

The gilt market weakened yesterday, weighed down by yesterday's evidence of the fizz in the economy and the fear that today's inflation figures will show the target measure climbing above 3 per cent. Sterling gained more than 2 pence to end at DM2.4921.

The fall in the unemployment count in October was much bigger than expected. The Office for National Statistics said about 10,000-15,000 of the drop was due to the introduction of the Job Seekers' Allowance and will be reversed.

But even allowing for that distortion, there was a broad-

based fall in the number of claimants that exceeded the recent trend. The total not adjusted for seasonal variations crept below 2 million to 1,977,000.

The number of claimants was lower in all regions and for men and women. It has declined across all age groups, and long-term unemployment also fell.

Other figures for vacancies,

manufacturing, employment and earnings painted the same picture of a buoyant jobs market.

The number of vacancies advertised in JobCentres last month, although exaggerated by a new computer system, returned to the highest level since May 1988.

An extra 13,000 jobs were created in manufacturing industry in September, taking the level of employment in the sector to its highest for nearly four years.

The underlying increase in average earnings remained at 4 per cent in the year to September. However, actual earnings growth climbed to 4.6 per cent, the fastest rate of increase since the end of 1992.

Although the official claimant count underestimates the number unemployed – by around 150,000 compared to the total on the international definition of unemployment – the general picture of a rapid fall in unemployment and a slower

climb in employment has become clear.

"The economy is steaming," said Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief economist at investment bank Paribas, predicting a base rate increase in January.

Geoffrey Dicks at NatWest Markets agreed but said: "There's an election coming up. The Chancellor will hold off."

At the 23 September monetary meeting Mr George argued for a quarter-point increase and said a delay might make it necessary to tighten policy more sharply.

The Bank's Inflation Report last week warned that another move would be needed at some stage.

A few City economists remain unconvinced of the need for higher rates but think we might get them anyway. "Inflation is benign and growth is around trend. I would be surprised if the Chancellor were to raise rates again, but with the Bank piling on the pressure he might," said Simon Briscoe at Nikko.

## Hambros claims investors' support

Peter Rodgers  
Financial Editor

Sir Chips is to become chairman next July when Lord Stamford retires, but the chief executive post is not going to be filled. Sir Chips said he would be a "full-time working chairman" rather than chairman and chief executive.

Michael Sorkin, a deputy chairman responsible for the investment group, and Charles Perrin, chief executive of the banking subsidiary, will continue to report to Sir Chips when he becomes chairman. The funds business has £7bn under management.

Sir Chips was announcing a return to the black at Hambros, with a profit for the half year to September of £35m before tax, compared with a loss of £7.7m a year ago. The swing was helped by a sharp fall in bad debt provisions to £5.9m from £24.6m a year ago.

Investment column, page 23

OFT set to deliver report on Bass deal to Lang

Michael Harrison

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is due to receive the Office of Fair Trading's long-awaited report on the £200m takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley by Bass tomorrow.

The OFT is expected to call for the merger to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the grounds that it would give Bass 38 per cent of the brewing market. The merger would also create a group with more than 4,000 pubs controlling four of Britain's top ten beers, making it Britain's biggest brewing group.

The deal might still escape an MMC referral if Bass gives undertakings to dispose of pubs, breweries and perhaps brands. The takeover of Courage, a deal which gave it 31 per cent of the market, was cleared with only minor concessions.

However, Mr Lang's recent decisions to block several takeovers in other industries, including two bids for South West Water from rival water companies, has heightened speculation that the Bass/Carlsberg-Tetley deal may also be blocked.

There is also speculation in political and City circles that Mr Lang may choose to refer two US bids for regional electricity companies to the MMC.

The Bass/Carlsberg-Tetley takeover was finally unveiled in August after months of talks between the two sides.

Under the merger, Bass will acquire Allied Domecq's half share in Carlsberg-Tetley for £200m.

The Danish brewer Carlsberg would then inject its half of the business into Bass Brewers along with £20m in cash in return for a 20-per-cent stake in the enlarged group.

Bass has 4,000 pubs. In addition to that, it would continue to supply the Allied estate, which also consists of 4,000 pubs, giving it control of 70 per cent of all the beer and lager drunk in Britain.

Among the lager brands it would control are Carling Black Label, Tennents Extra and Castlemead XXXX.

If the deal is blocked, then Carlsberg has undertaken to offer Allied's half stake for £110m. Allied would also pay Bass £30m in compensation.

There was some surprise that the Scottish & Newcastle takeover of Courage was allowed through with such slender undertakings.

The Department of Trade and Industry only required S&N to dispose of 115 pubs and free a further 1,000 pubs from the tie.

A hundred years ago there were 1,500 brewing companies in the country, but if the Bass deal goes through it will leave the three big brewers accounting for four in every five pints brewed in Britain.

## 33 staff sacked as Diamond restructures BZW

Jill Treanor

BZW yesterday sacked 33 people from its back office, sales, trading and secretarial staff as part of the radical restructuring of its global markets operation under Bob Diamond.

The sackings come hard on the heels of senior executives following a strategic review by Mr Diamond, the recently appointed chief executive of global markets. Klaus-Peter Moeritz, head of foreign exchange trading in the UK and Europe, also left

yesterday. He was originally recruited by Alex von Ungern-Sternberg, the deputy chief executive of the markets division who resigned on Monday.

Mr Diamond, who joined BZW in July on a remuneration package that could net him more than £5m in the next few years, yesterday hired Paul Thrush, former head of foreign exchange at Nationsbank, to head of foreign exchange. He replaces Mr Moeritz, but assumes a wider role.

Mr Harrison said yesterday: "We are going through something of a change there [in the re-

structuring of the entire BZW group taking place under Bill Harrison, who was poached from Robert Fleming and took over as chief executive in September.

Senior executives who have left include Yann Gindre, head of debt origination, Nick Carter, head of swaps marketing, Paul Ellis, head of structured products, and Rob Jolliffe and Steve Honesjoint, heads of debt syndicate.

In addition, Mr Harrison has set up a capital markets unit run

by Amir Eilon, who already works for BZW.

Mr Harrison said: "We've got equity capital markets, debt capital markets, structured products, and global derivatives.

What we've done is bring that together and that reports to the investment banking, equities and the markets business. We will have our financing products co-ordinated in such a way we can look at financing products for clients across all our client range."

Investment banking has also been restructured so that "all of

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FTSE All-Share	1956.77	-2.02	-0.1	1994.54	1791.95 3.86
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Frankfurt	2773.43	+39.13	+1.4	2773.43	

OFT says to deliver report Bass deal to Laporte  
Michael Heseltine



## COMMENT

'It is difficult to see the directive changing anything at all in well-run, efficient companies that do not compel their employees to work longer hours than they want'

**Since journalists are exempt from the Working Time Directive, having been mysteriously classed among the "essential workers" to whom it should not apply, we are more than qualified to comment on the matter from a wholly impartial point of view.**

A veritable forest of misinformation has appeared in the 48 hours since the European Court of Justice announced its ruling against Britain, truth being one of the first casualties of any war with Brussels. One of the more impressive is the Institute of Directors' unsubstantiated estimate that it will cost British industry £12bn. But there have also been some telling facts and one of them is that 6 million employees - a quarter of the working population - are exempt along with media types, ranging from bus drivers, trolleymen and trainee doctors to managing directors and domestic servants.

As many as 4 million people may now be working more than 48 hours. However, the more important statistic, according to the British Chambers of Commerce, is that 91 per cent of these do so voluntarily. Nothing in the directive will change that.

Indeed, it is difficult to see the directive changing anything at all in well-run, efficient companies that do not compel their employees to work longer hours than they want - something accepted by the Confederation of British Industry despite its belligerent noises.

The idea that the directive is in some way back-door social engineering forced on Britain in breach of its opt-out from Maastricht, is likewise hard to sustain. Britain approved and endorsed the European legislation under which the directive has been introduced long before the opt-out from Maastricht became an issue.

Knowing this newspaper and others to be pursuing the rumour that Lord Hollick was trying to force him to accept a reduced role, salary and expenses, Lord Stevens plainly thought it would be better to get his side of the story out first through the more-honoured method of a selective leak. He was right.

What we got was the usual guff about not wanting to go on for ever, having other things to do, etc, etc. The FT gave him as warm a send-off as he could have hoped for and in the process he defused the rest of the pack.

Unfortunately his action was also perilously close to being illegal. The Financial Services Act specifically forbids through the Stock Exchange listing rules the partial release of price-sensitive information, even when those doing the leaking are not making any money out of it.

It seems that when it comes to company affairs, the black arts of spin have become a mighty dangerous thing. But for the fact that the rules are ambiguous on a decision of this sort, and that United shares, although firmly up on the news, did not move excessively, United would have been in trouble. As it is, the Stock Exchange is rushing through a change in the rules to close the loophole. From now on the selective leaking of information as apparently innocuous as a director's decision to stand down will be barred.

something which, as a long-serving newspaper proprietor, Lord Stevens ought to know a thing or two about.

Lord Stevens certainly succeeded in outmanoeuvring us. We had a scoop and he deprived us of it.

It is hard to exaggerate the anxious concern in the City over the software teething problems of Crest, the City's new share settlement system. Crest was set up by the Bank of England to replace the Stock Exchange's ill-fated Taurus clearing system. Now an independent company, Crest announced last week that it was delaying the entry of a number of FTSE 100 companies to early next year to give a breathing space while the problems are sorted out.

Crest's board is to meet at the end of the month to have another look at progress. One of the options is to reduce further the rate at which companies transfer to the system. That would delay full operation beyond the target date of next April.

Some firms believe there is now a real danger of the system failing, for example if there is heavy trading after the Halifax is floated

next year, unless there is a radical and complete overhaul of the software. If there were the remotest prospect of that, the Securities and Investments Board would have to intervene, because of the threat to the health of securities firms of any serious settlement delay.

Some firms go further, and say that delaying a few more companies' entry into Crest is not enough. Instead they believe the commissioning programme should be suspended altogether while Crest is sorted out. That means the winding down of the old Taurus settlement system would have to be put on hold, to avoid total chaos. The loss of face for the City and especially for the Bank would be hard to beat, so soon after the Taurus fiasco.

Whether all this is exaggeration or not, it is nonetheless symptomatic of extreme, widespread and very real concern. Crest is not yet operating at more than 25 per cent of capacity.

If it is having severe software problems now, what's it going to be like when it runs at full steam? Claims that it knows how to put the problems right are greeted with justified scepticism.

One of the problems is that Crest has simply not given customers enough information to convince them that the software can be put right. Unless Crest can reassure customers soon, it will face open rebellion from the brokers, companies, registrars and investors who the system is set up to serve.

## 48-hour rule won't change the way we do business



Lavish lifestyle: Lord Stevens' £510,000 annual salary and expense account will be cut

## Inquiry into United's part-time chairman

Mathew Horsman  
Media Editor

The Stock Exchange is planning to tighten rules on the disclosure of material changes to the role of company directors, after confirmation yesterday that Lord Stevens, the chairman of United News & Media, will work only part-time from next spring.

News of Lord Stevens' plans, revealed in an interview in the *Financial Times*, was the subject of Stock Exchange inquiries yesterday into whether the company should have issued a formal statement about the chairman's diminished managerial role.

United's shares rose 11p on the news, receding later in the day to close at 685p, up 7.5p. According to a senior regulator, United would have been obliged to make a statement to the market had a new rule, to be implemented on Monday, been in effect this week.

The rule will state that "any important change in the functions or executive responsibilities of a director" must be notified as soon as it is decided.

Changes to Lord Stevens' job will result in a sharp reduction in his £510,000 annual salary and generous expense account.

Lord Hollick, the chief executive, was believed to have been seeking such an outcome for some months.

Up until now United has consistently refused to comment publicly on the matter, even going so far as to deny the plans outright in off-the-record comments recorded by *The Independent* just prior to the publication of the *Financial Times* interview.

The Stock Exchange formally gave consideration yesterday to whether the leaking of the news constituted partial disclosure, which might have been against the rules.

Confirmation that Lord Stevens will work only part-time from May is believed to be a first step toward his eventual resignation from the company.

Sources close to United claimed last night that Lord Stevens had a "lavish lifestyle and a generous expense account".

One source said: "David Stevens knew it was time the gravy train came to an end. He was one of the last true Fleet Street spenders."

United declined to comment on the level of Lord Stevens' expenses, or on suggestions that he would be paid just £150,000 a year in his part-time position.

Information on his new salary would only be publicly available

when the next annual report was published, a company spokesman said.

A source close to company said "a drop in his remuneration would be only natural in line with his changed duties".

Lord Hollick is widely viewed

as the key architect of United's strategy, while Lord Stevens' in HTV, the ITV company, is a step most observers believe will lead to a fall.

The fact that the share price rose on this news is proof the market sides more with Lord Hollick than with Lord Stevens, one leading media analyst said yesterday.

"We see no reason for it and

## East Midlands agrees £1.3bn Dominion bid

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

The long awaited takeover bid for East Midlands Electricity finally materialised yesterday when the regional electricity firm recommended a £1.3bn cash offer from Dominion Resources, the US utility company.

But there were growing doubts in the markets that this latest bid, and last month's £766m offer from US-owned CE Electric for Northern Electric, would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. "This dramatically increases the chance of an MMC reference," a leading electricity analyst said last night.

The fears kept East Midlands shares well below the 670p offer price. The shares closed 11.5p higher at 622.5p. Shares in Northern Electric slipped a further 15p to 593.5p. If both bids go through, it would bring to five the number of regional electricity suppliers owned by American companies.

In addition, it would leave just three of the 12 privatised regional electricity companies still in independent hands with separate stock market listings: London, Yorkshire and Southern. One theory is that the regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, will ask for the bids to be blocked because he would have too few quoted companies to use to make share price comparisons.

Thomas Capps, Dominion's chairman, and Norman Askew, chief executive of East Midlands, spoke to Professor Littlechild on the phone yesterday. However Mr Capps had earlier insisted he saw no reason his bid should be referred to the MMC. "We see no reason for it and

thing we need to think about in the UK," Mr Capps said.

Domestic directors, who will visit East Midlands' Nottingham offices for the first time today, claimed to have bold ambitions for the group. They are likely to encourage the planned expansion into the domestic gas and electricity in the rest of the UK when competition arrives in 1998.

Mr Askew disclosed that East Midlands would be selling homes in parts of the south of England in competition trials in the new year. Mr Capps said the UK was further ahead by five or six years in introducing utility competition. "The UK is a good learning laboratory for comparison."

In addition, East Midlands could launch a range of mortgage and consumer credit products, which Dominion sells in the US. Linwood Robertson, the group's senior vice-president, claimed Dominion was one of the largest providers of new mortgages in the US. He explained: "Obviously it's some-

thing we need to think about in the UK."

However, both companies said the deal would have no impact on jobs, which are likely to face further cuts in an on-going restructuring programme. East Midlands' workforce has almost halved from 8,684 in 1993 to about 4,500 today.

Dominion had confirmed it was considering making an offer for East Midlands last week but said at the time it was not prepared to pay much more than 608p a share. Talks aimed at securing a recommended offer lasted through Tuesday night, with both sides agreeing they had arrived at a fair price.

The company had already given away 266p to shareholders in the form of a special dividend worth £1.20 and its share of the take-over in the National Grid of £1.46p a share.

Mr Capps said: "We bargained hard and they bargained hard. I don't think we stole it and I don't think they gave it away." City analysts broadly agreed that the price was reasonable.

## SIB speeds up pensions review

Nic Cicutti

The Securities and Investments Board moved yesterday to revive its faltering pensions mis-selling review by announcing that it was simplifying the way insurance companies obtain information needed to process cases.

The SIB initiative came as the Personal Investment Authority, the frontline regulator responsible for ensuring the review is carried out, formally admitted that barely 24,000 cases had been assessed of the 446,000 identified as priorities.

Only 6,227 people have been offered redress, worth a total of £50m. Of the 38,000 priority cases identified by independent financial advisers, redress has been offered to 561 and accepted by 99.

Joe Palmer, chairman of the

SIB, said: "The measures outlined today should enable firms to increase their rate of progress significantly. PIA will be concentrating its attention on those firms with the most to do."

The SIB initiative is aimed at clearing a serious information log-jam, which insurers claim has prevented them from assessing the losses incurred by the vast bulk of cases so far identified.

Until now, pension providers have relied on a questionnaire jointly devised by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), the insurers' and pension schemes trade bodies.

However, both sides have complained that the questions were far too detailed and involved their staff in meaningless statistical exercise.

SIB's paper says that insurers can now make rough calculations based on a pension scheme's information booklet, plus simple additional information. Instead of asking 200 questions, insurers will now have to ask only eight.

The regulator claimed that, while not totally accurate, the new system, devised by accountancy firm Price Waterhouse, was not biased towards life companies or policyholders. A separate validation by consultants Lane Clark & Peacock backs SIB's assertion.

The proposals were welcomed by the NAPF and the ABI as an important contribution to resolving the mis-selling scandal, more than two years after a review first identified the problem. The British Bankers' Association, many of whose members have sold personal

pensions, also backed the SIB plan.

However, both General and Chambers Townsend Consultancy, a provider of pension redress systems to life companies, warned reinstatement would still pose a problem even after estimates of actual losses were made. Pension schemes are likely to require far more detailed information before re-admitting former members, it was claimed.

If so, the log-jam would break only to re-assemble a few months down the line while increasing pressure on the regulator to opt for a top-up to the personal pension instead, it was claimed.

Another big worry concerned the regulator's decision to force policyholders into becoming more involved in the compensation process than hitherto.

The Government is hopeful of completing the entire privatisation of passenger services before the General Election.

Big city stations served by

## Telewest talks to Comcast UK about takeover

Matthew Horsman  
Media Editor

Telewest has 226,000 cable television subscribers and 239,000 residential telephone subscribers. It has investments in four franchises, including London, Cambridge and Birmingham, with a total potential reach of 1.6 million homes.

The move, which follows last month's four-way cable merger between Mercury, Nynex CableComms, Bell Cablemedia and videotron to form Cable & Wireless Communications, now the country's largest operator, came as no surprise to analysts last night.

Telewest was always going to be involved in the next wave of consolidation," said one media analyst. "And it was very likely to be an acquirer."

A spokesman for Telewest said: "We have no comment on any plans to acquire, merge or take over any company." Sources at Comcast also declined to comment.

Comcast shares rose 8 per cent in early trading on Nasdaq yesterday, in part on the company's improving financial performance.

Analyst said word of Telewest's interest had also percolated through the market.

Telewest shares cable franchises with Comcast in London, and has jointly developed marketing campaigns with its smaller company.

## IN BRIEF

• The German economics ministry said it expected third-quarter GDP to have grown around a real 2 per cent from a year earlier. In its November monthly report, the ministry said GDP should also rise "noticeably" from the second quarter in seasonally and calendar-adjusted terms. But it also said quarter-on-quarter growth would be lower than in the second quarter because of a normalisation of economic activity after the cold winter boosted GDP in the April to June period. Second-quarter GDP was 1.5 per cent higher than in the previous quarter and up 1.2 per cent year-on-year.

• Higher oil prices took prices at the factory gate in the US up by 0.4 per cent last month. But core prices, excluding food and energy, fell unexpectedly by 0.3 per cent. The news, which came as the Federal Reserve's Open Markets Committee was meeting to discuss interest rates, confirmed financial markets in the view that there would be no change in rates this month.

• France sold a 9.1 per cent stake in oil company Elf Aquitaine, raising about £10bn (£1.19bn) to help loss-making state-owned companies. The Finance Ministry said it sold 4.6 per cent of Elf, or 12.58 million shares, to institutional investors via Banque Paribas and SBC Warburg. It also sold 4.5 per cent, or 12.32 million shares, of France's largest oil company to Finafrance, a unit of Elf. The proceeds of the sale will go to a fund used to inject cash into ailing state-owned companies, the ministry said.

• Westinghouse Electric would spin off its industrial businesses as a publicly traded company next year to create a stand-alone company for its growing broadcasting operations, the company said. Westinghouse will take a \$125m fourth-quarter charge to cut 1,100 jobs in the industrial businesses prior to the spin-off. The company will also sell its Texas-based security systems business and offer the public up to a 20 per cent stake in Minneapolis-based Thermo King, its profitable transport-refrigeration unit.

• Chartered accountants could find themselves out of work or earning substantially less in 10 years' time because of an oversupply, according to a report published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants yesterday. The consultation document, called "Added Value Professionals, Chartered Accountants in 2005", says that competition from inside and outside the accountancy profession will become much more intense, with chartered accountants over 45 particularly vulnerable to losing their jobs.

• Just under half of Britain's finance directors believe the public would be better served by setting up an outside regulatory body instead of continuing with the self-regulatory approach recently backed by the leading accountancy bodies, according to a survey by Reed Accountancy Personnel for *Accountancy Age* magazine, which was published today.

## Virgin to run CrossCountry trains

Richard Branson's Virgin Group is set to take over the running of one of Britain's most extensive rail routes, it was revealed yesterday.

The Rail Franchising Office said Virgin was the preferred bidder for the CrossCountry train company.

A formal announcement that Virgin has officially won the franchise is expected to be made soon.

A spokesman for Virgin, Will Whitehorn, said: "We are very excited."

"We think this is a major na-

tional network with huge potential."

Virgin is a partner in London & Continental Railways, which has taken over the running of the high-speed Channel Tunnel Eurostar train service and which will build the £2bn Channel tunnel high-speed rail link.

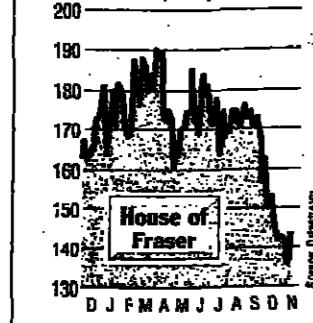
# market report / shares

## Data Bank

FTSE 100	3926.9	-7.4
FTSE 250	4410.2	+5.4
FTSE 350	1961.2	-2.3
SEAQ VOLUME	852.8m shares,	34,624 bargains
Gilts Index	93.68	-0.16

## Share spotlight

share price, pence



# House of Fraser takeover talk stirs lethargic punters

## Taking Stock

A quiet, uneventful session usually spawns a few takeover bid stories as traders struggle to generate investment interest. With the stock market deep in pre-Budget lachrymatory retailers found themselves the centre of attention and House of Fraser, the struggling department store chain captured much of the speculation.

The shares climbed 3p to 144.5p as stories continued to circulate that Burton, down 1.5p to 143p, was preparing an assault.

Burton is trading well and last week demonstrated its success with a 54 per cent profits jump to £151.6m. John Hoerner, called in chief executive four years ago to turn round the then ailing group, declared: "This is not the beginning of the end; it is the end of the beginning".

With Debenhams, the group's department store chain thought to be squeezed for

space Fraser's 50 stores could look attractive.

So a bid from Burton at least has the merit of logicality. And Fraser looks vulnerable. Its shares have failed to perform. Floated at 180p 30 months ago they have been as low as 135.5p.

Last month it disclosed half-year losses of £13.6m and said it intended to close some of its stores. New management has been drafted in, led by John Coleman, a Texas Homecare veteran.

Sears, another retailer which has lost its way, added 2p to 89p in busy trading with Fraser said to be a potential target. But Sears is also seen as vulnerable to a break-up strike.

Next and Body Shop also made headway but once again Storehouse found the going difficult, falling 5.5p to 274p, a year's low. Interim profits are due next week. They are likely to emerge 5 per cent higher at

£36m before exceptional charges take their toll.

The market failed to hold early gains and spent the rest of the session drifting aimlessly. Fears of higher interest rates and a little selling in New York added to the Budget uncertainty.

With the debacle over the Crest computerised settlement system contributing to the air of indifference Foorzie slipped 7.4 points to 3,926.9.

As the market closed there was a gentle buzz of excitement as a series of big trades went through. Turnover was tied to a respectable 852.8 million with Hanson (71.62 million), British Gas (64.69 million),

Cookson (22.11 million) and BT (21.79 million) dominating the action as a series of delayed trades appeared on market screens.

There was speculation a big investment house had cut its equity exposure. Bed and breakfast deals, often responsible for big late trades, were not a significant feature of the activity.

British Gas flared 6p to 198.5p on UBS support, hopes of a North Sea settlement and lingering bid speculation. BT edged forward 1.5p to 360.5p, largely on NatWest Securities interest.

The investment house is, for the first time for 30 months,

positive, moving its stance from hold to add.

East Midlands Electricity, as the Dominion Resources bid duly arrived, rose 11.5p to 627.5p. Northern Ireland Electricity, not regarded as a prime takeover candidate, fell 9p to 357.5p as SBC Warburg said take profits.

Lamson rose 8.5p to 210p. At a New York investment presentation chief executive Joe Darby said the group expected to produce 200,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day next year, a 12 per cent increase. The higher level should be maintained for five years.

Allied Domecq dipped a further 7p to 447.7p and Guinness strengthened 8p to 453.5p on continuing speculation about LVMH's 21 per cent stake.

Vendome, the luxury goods group, fell 16p to 544.5p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett trimmed its forecasts by £10m to £280m and £305m.

Granada gained 6.5p to 884.5p. Lehman Brothers believes the shares are a buy up to 950p. It expects year's results, due next week, to come out at £450.5m.

Smiths Industries, ahead of an institutional presentation hosted by Henderson Crosthwaite, improved 7.5p to 797p and Cobham, meeting Henderson today, held at 584.5p.

Ladbrokes, ahead of a trading update, countered 2.5p higher to 198p; Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager, gained 35p to a 1,163.5p peak on talk of corporate activity.

Boardroom changes at luxury goods group Ronson left the shares down 3p at 21.5p and Maid, the on-line information group, fell 7p to 175.5p on talk of a one-for-eight rights issue at 190p.

Insurance group Wellington returned at 142p, against a 121p suspension.

Alpha Airports, the in-flight caterer and airport services group, rose 8.5p to 113p in busy trading, prompting speculation Mohammed Al Fayyad had increased his stake. Last week the Harrods chief acquired 25 per cent from Granada, paying 125p a share. He is thought to want to expand Harrods' activities through Alpha and is probably moving his interest to 39.9 per cent. A link with BAA is considered likely.

Ropner, the engineering and shipping group, has emerged as the target for Jacobs which has built a near-10 per cent stake. Takeover talks are taking place. Scruttons, the ferry and security group, could be pulled into any deal with Ropner owning 29 per cent of its capital. Ropner gained 6p to 107p; Jacobs eased to 71p and Scruttons held at 290p.

## MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN  
stock market reporter of the year



£36m before exceptional charges take their toll.

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## Share Price Data

Please see in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: \*Ex-rights x Ex-dividend a date of United Securities Market & Suspended. Source: FT Information

## The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Saab. Simply dial 0898 333 555 followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0898 222 000 followed by one of the two-digit codes below:

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UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 40  
UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 06 Electricity Shares 40  
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41

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Call cost 5p per minute (off-peak), 49p per minute at all other times. Call charges include

## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol 1000	Stock	Vol 1000	Stock	Vol 1000	Stock	Vol 1000
Honda	750000	E M&B Elect	150000	Imperial Tobacco	600000	Lloyds TSB	52000
McDonalds	600000	Glaxo	500000	Guinness	500000	Barclays	480000
Deutsche	500000	Brown	500000	ICI	500000	Standard	480000
BP	250000	Unilever	500000	MRI	500000	Luxottica	480000
Lotto	160000	Pirelli	500000	Perrier	500000	Amoco	480000

## FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 33845 up 0.2 11.00 33812 down 3.1 14.00 33812 down 3.1  
09.00 33827 up 3.4 12.00 33825 down 3.5 15.00 33823 down 3.5  
10.00 33813 down 2.8 13.00 33821 down 2.8 16.00 33827 down 7.8  
Closes 33823 down 7.4

14.00 33812 down 3.1 15.00 33823 down 3.5 16.00 33827 down 7.8  
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67.00 33823 down

## Land Securities offers little to excite

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Land Securities' figures yesterday underscored how eccentric stock markets can be. Shares in Britain's biggest landlord raced ahead on the publication of interim figures pretty much in line with analysts' expectations, leaving those very same analysts wondering what all the excitement was about.

They were quick to point out that the outlook for Land Securities has not improved, making it hard to see why the shares were trading on the 10 per cent outperformance against the rest of the market seen so far this year. Stripping out the results of selling investment properties, pre-tax profits fell to £115.5m from £118.2m. Proceeds of £161m were received on the sale of properties, resulting in a profit of £13.4m over financial year-end valuations. The most significant deal involved the sale in August of Land Securities' flagship London building at 33 Grosvenor Place for £130m to a German investment fund.

Land Securities explained the pre-tax shortfall on the effects of financing the development programme – interest incurred as part of the cost of carrying out the development programme is not capitalised.

Expenditure on properties, expected to peak in the second half, reached £108m during the period, of which almost £80m related to developments and refurbishments.

Work has been completed at 25 Victoria Street in central London, on shopping centres in Livingston and Wallsend and on several retail developments. Large shopping schemes are also planned in Canterbury, York and Sunderland.

Of more concern is the pedestrian growth in rental income, the lifeblood of any property company. In Land Securities case, this rose by a sub-inflationary 1.5 per cent to £14.3m.

With the shares, up 7.5p to 726p, trading well above the last published net asset value figure, investors are anticipating robust growth in rental income, of which there is precious little sign.

Although occupational and investment demand in the property market have improved as confidence increases, Sir Peter Hunt, the chairman, describes rental growth as "patchy".

Like other property companies, Land Securities is seeing some rental growth in certain parts of the market such as retail warehouses, out-of-town shopping centres and regional shopping malls. But Sir Peter warns that rental income growth is slow and will be nothing like what was experienced in the 1980s. For good measure, Sir Peter's cautious tone is backed up by a paltry 3.5 per cent increase in the dividend.

to 7.35p. UBS has tweaked its 1997 pre-tax forecast £1m higher to £230m, but has cut its estimates by £5m for each of the following years to £240m and £250m, respectively. High enough.

### Hambros faces uphill struggle

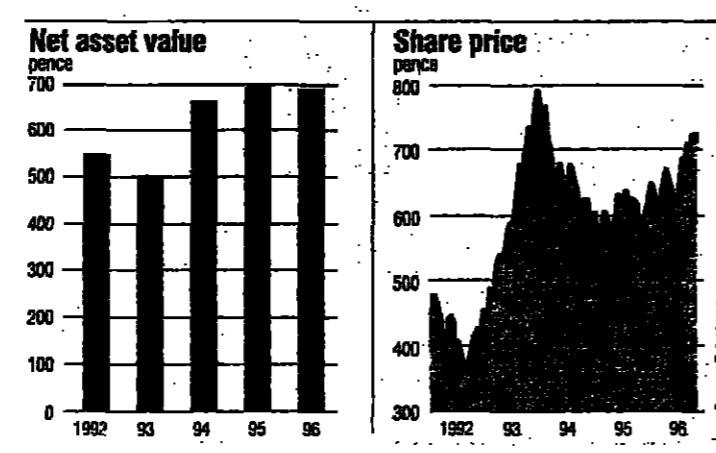
A year of restructuring and the arrival on the share register of Regent Pacific, an upstart Hong Kong venture fund demanding a break-up, have done nothing for Hambros' reputation in the City. The merchant bank's "beautifully decorated" board yesterday reported a return to the black for the half-year to September and was rewarded with a 7.5p fall in the share price to 245p.

It is not difficult to see why Hambros irritates analysts. Most of the swing in the interim results from losses of £7.7m to profits of £3.5m came not from trading, but from arguably one-off items. The group reorganisation threw up exceptional costs of £2.9m, down from £8.8m before, while bad debts in the bank fell from £23.5m to £5.9m.

### Land Securities : at a glance

Market value: £3.7bn, share price: 726p

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1995	1st half -
Gross property income (£m)	449	469	462	224	233
Pre-tax profits (£m)	237	245	238	118	129
Earnings per share (pence)	35.2	56.6	38.5	16.5	16.2
Dividends per share (pence)	24.0	25.0	26.0	7.1	7.4



of the management are misguided. It will not be helped by news that current chief executive Sir "Clips" Keswick is to take on the chairman's role next year. Profits of, say, £70m this year would put the shares on a forward multiple of 17. Hold to see what Regent can do, but investors should not hold their breath.

### The pub chain with no theme

Much of the rest of the increase came from areas nominally not under the group's control. Both the quoted subsidiaries saw sharp upturns in profitability, with Hambro Insurance Services rising 50 per cent to £4.5m and Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency, back in the black for only the second time since 1988, with profits of £10.5m replacing losses of £5.8m.

Even in the parts of Hambro where management is supposed to deploy its expertise, the half-year figures present a mixed picture. The group's investment portfolio threw up a profit of £30.4m, against £13.2m last time, mostly from disposals. But these profits are volatile and Hambro was warning yesterday not to expect a repeat of that performance in the second half.

Which leaves the bank itself. Much of the reorganisation has been concentrated here as part of a new strategy of reducing risky and low-margin lending and replacing it with higher "add-value" services. But this is going to be a long haul and analysts were pointing disparagingly at the 7 per cent return on net assets of £298m.

Hambros faces an uphill struggle to convince the City that Regent's criticisms

## British Steel shifts computer jobs to IBM

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

British Steel is to move its computing workforce of 600 staff to new jobs with IBM in a 10-year deal worth £350m, believed to be the biggest computer outsourcing agreement so far in the UK. It is also the largest ever in Britain by the US computer giant.

From next February the British Steel employees will transfer to contracts with IBM, which has already signed recent outsourcing deals with several big British companies, including Thorn, Legal & General and a £65m contract with Sun Alliance signed at the end of last year.

The changes will affect workers in British Steel's computer departments across the UK and will include all administrative, payroll and personnel functions and supply and purchasing information with the group's customers. They cover a variety of job grades and salaries.

Some 120 staff are affected in Port Talbot and 150 on Teesside, with others in data centres at Wednesbury in the West Midlands, Blackburn and Scunthorpe. Computer staff involved in manufacturing software roles will stay with British Steel.

In such outsourcing arrangements the workers involved will stay in the same posts in the same offices but work for the computer company. British Steel, headed by Sir Brian Moffat, declined to reveal how much money it would save as a result of the deal, or whether any of the 600 workers involved would lose their jobs. They will be covered by employment law, which means IBM must continue with previous wage and pension agreements.

A spokesman for British Steel does not detail how much money the company would save as a result of its link-up with IBM. The workers affected currently use 7,000 desktop systems, some of which will be updated as a result.

Earlier this year British Steel outsourced 300 staff, mostly based in Rotherham, involved in its central management services division responsible for other administrative work. The deal, worth an estimated £100m, was with the computer group Cap Gemini, formerly called Hoskins.

The new agreement with IBM is a clear success for the computer group, which had been criticised for failing to ex-



Sir Brian Moffat: The British Steel chief has done a deal with IBM worth £350m and involving 600 staff

ploit outsourcing opportunities with British firms. It is thought that the US group beat off competition from Cap Gemini and EDS.

IBM has so far taken on 10,000 staff worldwide in outsourcing arrangements, including an estimated 1,000 in the UK.

The deal with British Steel does not involve IBM hardware such as personal computers. The British firm currently uses systems made by several different contractors, including ICL of the UK.

## Rates on the way up, says CU

Magnus Grimond

Commercial Union yesterday ditched its voice to those suggesting UK insurance rates were set to turn up. Peter Foster, finance director, said they had yet to push through any rating increases, but had not reduced rates by as much as other insurers when prices were falling. The next move from CU on rates would probably be upward, he forecast.

The group is also sanguine about the effects of the announcement on Tuesday that AXA and UAP of France are to merge to create the world's second-biggest insurance group.

Tony Wynd, director in charge of European operations, said: "We see [the union] in a fairly positive light." AXA would help make the market more focused on shareholder return, which would benefit Commercial Union, he said.

The comments came as the life and general insurer announced that operating profits had slid from £384m to £348m in the nine months to September.

The figures continued to be dragged lower by weather-related claims from the first half, which rose by £6.2m and more than offset stronger results from the life insurance business.

Life profit rose 11 per cent to £178m, boosted by CU's French

operations and a reorganised Dutch business. Life premiums climbed 6.4 per cent to £2.8bn, with Poland more than doubling its premium income and Italy posting a 37.5 per cent increase. Insurance premiums from the life business now provide 43 per cent of the group's total premium income.

"The results show the virtue of having a good spread of businesses," said Trevor May, an analyst at Salomon Brothers. "In the UK, the premium income line is still weak. They're deliberately losing exposure and becoming an increasingly smaller operation."

The shares rose 6.5p.

## £8m shake-up at Willis to improve profits

Magnus Grimond

Willis Corroon, the insurance broking group, yesterday took a further step in the reorganisation of its business with the announcement of an £8.2m charge to cover profit improvement measures.

Unveiling a 17 per cent rise in nine-months profits, the chairman, John Reeve, said: "The action the group has been taking to re-focus on its core businesses has achieved the objectives of improving profitability and strengthening the balanced sheet, essential precursors to the next phase of the group's strategic development."

The programme of change at the group would include several immediate profit improvement measures, he said. The cost of will be taken in the full-year figures and is likely to be around the same level as the £8.2m profit commission received from the group's Lloyd's members' agency so far this year.

The group said it would continue to seek growth opportunities, but reiterated its view that it saw no need to join with another group to combat competitive insurance markets.

Max Taylor, chief operating officer, said they did not feel under any greater pressure to merge with another large player following the acquisition by Aon Corporation of Incegate's Bain Hogg broking operation. Willis was focused on organic

growth, and in attracting the best people, he said. Were it to make an acquisition it would be a "very specific targeted acquisition" in the US retail market.

However, the group also intends to grow its existing offices in continental Europe and is looking to add to its Latin American network of offices, which includes Mexico, Venezuela and Peru.

The nine-months figures

showed the group shrugging off continuing difficult markets to report profits 17 per cent higher at £8.2m. Stripping out the £8.2m from the Lloyd's members' agency and disposal gains, the underlying businesses recorded a 14 per cent increase to £75.5m. The figures included a 57 per cent leap in underlying profits to £8.5m for the third quarter.

Mr Reeve said brokerage fees had risen 2 per cent in the year to date, at constant exchange rates, reflecting higher business volumes, particularly in the UK and North American re-tail and global reinsurance operations. Tight control of costs led to increased margins.

Nearly a third of its expected dollar earnings for next year are hedged at \$1.50 to the pound, the group said, which will go some way to offsetting the recent strength of sterling.

Although the figures were better than expectations, the shares managed a rise of just 0.5p to 129.5p yesterday.

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### IN BRIEF

• Fenner, the engineering group, recorded lower pre-tax profits of £12.4m in the year to August due to restructuring charges and a loss on disposals of £7m. The company said the disposal of non-core activities was now complete and had generated proceeds of £1.3m. The move to consolidate the polymer moulding business in Wales is continuing, though the benefits will not be felt until 1998.

• Borthwicks, the natural flavours company, saw pre-tax profits halve to £652,000 in the six months to September due to destocking in the beverage and ice-cream sectors and lower sales of beef flavours due to BSE concerns. Sales in Borthwicks' American flavours business were down 15 per cent due to the loss of two accounts. Group sales were 6 per cent lower at £17.1m.

• Morgan Crucible is paying \$26.8m for EM Corporation, a subsidiary of Great Lakes Chemical Corporation. EM manufactures and supplies a range of dry film lubricants, principally for the aerospace industry.

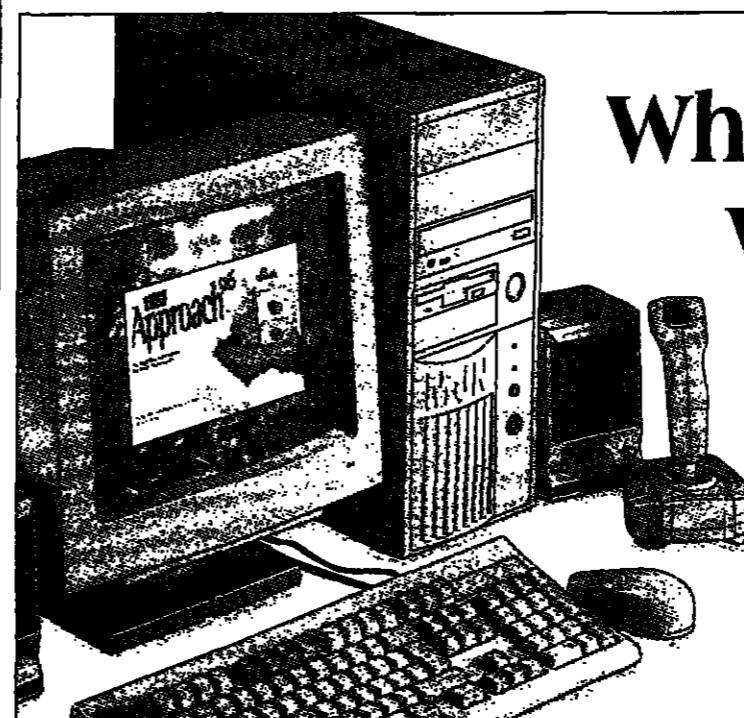
• BTR is to establish a joint venture in India to manufacture electric motors and compact geared motors for the Indian and South-East Asian markets. The partnership has been formed with Indian company Crompton Greaves. With an initial investment of £10m, the company will build a factory in India which will start manufacturing by mid-1997. By the end of the decade, the plant is forecast to produce more than 200,000 motors a year.

• Volex, the cable assemblies company, increased profits by 23 per cent to £6.5m in the six months to September. Volex is building a manufacturing site in San Diego, California, which will create 100 jobs. Group sales were 4 per cent higher at £85.5m.

### Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
ABL Leisure (F)	92.4m (95.3m)	5.03m (4.21m)	10.2p (9.7p)	3.47p (-)
Bethel (F)	15.3m (17.3m)	0.65m (1.25m)	0.78p (1.75p)	0.5p (0.5p)
Commercial Union (M)	- (-)	45.7m (44.1m)	33.1p (40.7p)	n/a (n/a)
James Dickie (F)	34.4m (30.8m)	1.9m (2.03m)	15p (20.1p)	3.85p (-)
Pearson (F)	239m (225m)	12.47m (13.1m)	5.59p (10.21p)	3.38p (3.03p)
Stansfield (F)	- (-)	35m (-7.7m)	7.2p (-19.8p)	2.5p (3.5p)
Land Securities (I)	- (-)	125.9m (118.1m)	16.44p (16.49p)	7.25p (7.18p)
Marsden (F)	135.3m (135.6m)	13.7m (15.4m)	8.37p (7.73p)	1.5p (1.5p)
MHS Resources (I)	2.81m (16.1m)	9.38m (17.1m)	-4.8p (-4.1p)	n/a (n/a)
Sedgwick (M)	- (-)	80.4m (76.5m)	53.6p (55.9p)	n/a (n/a)
Stansfield (F)	75.6m (126.3m)	0.71m (0.5m)	1.7p (n/a)	n/a (n/a)
Volex (F)	85.5m (82.3m)	6.3m (5.2m)	15.2p (12.4p)	7.35p (7.0p)
Willis Corroon (M)	- (-)	88.2m (75.3m)	13.2p (11.2p)	1.85p (-)
Young & Co (F)	38m (37.5m)	2.48m (2.57m)	12.65p (13.11p)	7.35p (7.35p)
(F) - Final (I) - Interim (M) - Half-midyear				

Whatever you want - MJN have the answer



# business

## Will Asia's hunger for growth leave the world starving?

The past year has seen a dramatic rise in international grain prices and a drop in world grain stocks to near-record low levels. Together with projections of massive grain imports by China in the 21st century, Lester Brown's Worldwatch Institute, this has raised concerns about the long-term prospects for the world food situation. These thoughts are in the minds of the heads of state and agricultural ministers meeting now in Rome for the first world food summit since the mid-1970s.

Will the rapid industrialisation of densely populated East Asia make people in poorer countries more hungry? China alone, with 22 per cent of the world's population but only 7 per cent of its land area, is expected to need to import half its grain needs by 2030. That would represent a doubling in current world grain trade. What if India's economic reforms were to have similar consequences?

These questions are like those that concerned Thomas Malthus in the mid-19th century and writers in the early 1970s such as the Club of Rome (*In Limits to Growth*) and Paul Erlich (*The Population Bomb*). Malthusians make good headlines, but they have so far been proved spectacularly wrong in their predictions. The clearest indicators of that are food availability and the relative price of food in international markets. Today's 5.7 billion people have 18 per cent more food per person than the world's 3 billion people three decades ago. And if the world's demand for food were growing faster than its supply, real food prices would have been rising over time. But in fact they have been falling slightly.

According to the World Bank data in the graph, the trend decline in the price of food relative to industrial products has averaged about 0.5 per cent per year. The bank expects

more of the same in the foreseeable future, as food supply growth outstrips the growth in demand.

Of course, such projections incorporate many assumptions about future developments in the world economy. So what happens to food price projections when plausible alternative scenarios replace some of those assumptions?

New research\* addressing this question first projects the world economy forward a decade, assuming that no commitments on food trade are included in the recently completed Uruguay Round of trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). That base case predicts a continuation of the slight decline in international food prices.

The study's first alternative scenario is one in which the Uruguay Round is fully implemented by 2005 as scheduled. Alternative assumptions are then added to see how much difference they can make to the projected prices.

Contrary to some earlier studies and the fears of many food-importing developing countries, the results suggest implementing the Uruguay Round in itself will have almost no impact on real international food prices. They are projected to be only 2 to 4 per cent higher than they otherwise would be in a decade's time.

There are two main reasons why the effect is so small. One is that, on close inspection, the agricultural commitments under the Round by the most farm protectionist countries are modest.

The other reason is that many markets for non-farm products also are to be liberalised under the Uruguay Round. As a result their prices will rise in international markets



**Kym Anderson**

**China alone, with 22 per cent of the world's population but only 7 per cent of its land area, is expected to import half its grain needs by 2030**

as well. This moderates the increase in farm relative to non-food prices – and it is these relative prices that influence the decisions of producers and consumers.

The next step was to see what difference it would make if China and Taiwan join the WTO. Potentially, a huge

amount. Increases in international grain prices would be twice as large with China participating, and livestock product prices would be 40 per cent higher. China would import 4 per cent instead of just 1 per cent of its grain needs by 2005. Total world trade would be 13 per cent instead of just 10 per cent greater.

Furthermore, these results

are at the bottom of the likely range, because they ignore the inducements to domestic and foreign investment that would accompany trade liberalisation. Should those investments boost China's industrial productivity to the extent of causing its economy to grow 25 per cent faster, for example, the gains from its accession to the WTO would be as much as four times greater. And China's dependence on grain imports would increase by about twice as much.

There is, however, a risk that advanced industrial countries will not deliver all their promised reform to textile and clothing markets. Should there be such backsliding on reform, a great deal of the projected gains from the Uruguay Round and China's WTO accession would evaporate, industrialisation in Asia's dynamic economies would slow, and the growth in their demand for food imports (and hence the rise in world food prices) would be less.

While net food exporters such as North America and Australasia would be harmed by such a slowdown in Asia's food import demand, might not be welcome news for poorer food-importing countries and elsewhere? The answer is no, not least because that dampening of international food prices would be a symptom of a slower-growing world economy which would

depress development prospects everywhere.

Contrast this with the key reason for the slight downward trend in world food prices of past decades, which is the very rapid growth in farm productivity. That productivity growth has been due in large part to well-targeted investments by aid agencies in international agricultural research, the economic returns from which have been – and continue to be – extremely high.

The very success of those research investments, however, has bred complacency. One consequence is that the emphasis on agriculture by aid agencies has waned considerably in the past decade. Should that cause global grain productivity growth to slow by, say, one-fifth during the next decade, our results suggest this would have dramatic effects: international grain prices by 2005 would be more than 5 per cent higher than otherwise, and global economic welfare would be \$28bn (£17bn) less per year.

These results suggest leaders at the FAO's World Food Summit in Rome ought not to worry about the effects on food markets of Asia's rapid industrialisation, but rather focus on the need for revitalising investments in agricultural research in developing countries.

That may be the single best way of simultaneously reducing poverty and malnutrition and providing new technologies for sustainable development.

**Kym Anderson is professor of economics at the University of Adelaide in Australia and a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research.**

\*Discussion Paper No. 1474, "Asia-Pacific Food Markets and Trade in 2005" by K. Anderson, B. Damaran, T. Herel and W. Martin, is available from CEPR (tel: 0171 878 2900), price £4.

## Saracens show their new colours for BZW

### PEOPLE & BUSINESS



**Michael Lynagh: Leading the Saracens into battle**

BZW has plunged into the muddy world of professional rugby by sponsoring Saracens this Sunday against the touring Queensland State of Australia.

The north London team will not be called Saracens, but Michael Lynagh's XV, as the former Australian captain leads his Sarries teammates, including Kyran Bracken and Phillip Sella, in a unique game. For the first time in the club's 100-year history, the players will not appear in their own strip, but in BZW blue and white colours designed for the occasion.

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Lord Jenkins's advice for Mr Clarke is "no giveaways, but a touch on the brakes, both fiscal and monetary".

Lord Jenkins is now Chancellor of a different sort, that of Oxford University. As such, he has been closely involved with the project to build a new Oxford business school with a £20m donation from Wafic Said. The donation was rejected by a meeting of dons but may be rescued by a postal vote.

Mr Brigstock said the match at Enfield was a one-off. "BZW are not normally sponsors of events."

All of which has come too late for Oxford Today, the university's magazine. Its Michaelmas issue, which has just arrived, devotes a page to the project: "Major benefactions boost".

Lord Jenkins praised the current inmate at Number 11 as a rather good Chancellor: "Clarke has more spunk and willingness to stand up for himself than all the other ministers put together."

The former Chancellor recalled his own experience of pre-budget "purdah": "Secrecy was more an asset to the Chancellor than to the nation. It enabled him not to tell his Cabinet colleagues what he was doing until it was too late for them to object."

An illustration of the proposed building is captioned: "There are likely to be significant changes in the finished plans". If the postal vote is thumbs down, there won't be any plans at all.

Christopher King CBE, chairman-elect of Avon Rubber, is joining BOC's board as a non-executive director. Mr King, 60, spent

35 years with BP and retired as chairman of BP Europe two years ago. He retains a clutch of non-executive directorships with BP, and he is a board member of Insead, the leading French business school in Fontainebleau.

Today around 150 City types will witness a grisly murder. Charismatic tycoon Dr Raymond Black, chief executive of Black Pharmaceuticals, has called an EGM in London to persuade brokers, bankers, analysts and the media to help rescue his crumbling empire.

But the City slickers will watch horrified as Dr Black gets shot, stabbed, strangled and clubbed to death before falling down the biggest staircase in Europe.

Also attending will be co-founder of Black Pharmaceuticals, Professor Peter Plum, who helped diversify the group into Scarlet's Lingerie, Mustard Export, White Hotels and Peacock Interior Design.

It is, of course, a scaled-up game of Cluedo, being held in aid of the charity Children with Leukemia, KPMG Forensic Accounting will be on hand to lend authenticity to the shoddygory. I'll be the one with the lead pipe.

**John Willcock**

### Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	1 month	3 months	Dollar	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	1 month	3 months
US	16522	12-10	36-93	10000	—	—	80637	12-07	36-93
Canada	22037	54-49	164-165	13330	24-23	75-73	85847	55-58	164-165
Germany	24910	55-58	164-165	10000	30-28	90-97	10000	55-58	164-165
France	8424	87-93	252-255	50940	86-91	259-258	33808	91-97	253-255
Italy	25073	31-35	103-123	15165	25-35	91-101	100655	31-35	103-123
ECU	12988	21-18	68-61	12720	13-14	44-45	70800	21-18	68-61
Belgium	51348	15-10	42-56	31060	7-5	20-27	16756	15-10	42-56
Denmark	9576	222-277	555-558	57888	99-79	298-307	20618	222-277	555-558
Netherlands	27592	76-88	225-228	18000	33-37	121-127	12211	76-88	225-228
Ireland	09861	5-6	15-16	15165	6-3	10-8	40000	5-6	15-16
Spain	10452	80-82	280-270	52025	78-85	228-228	43655	80-82	280-270
Australia	10255	4-5	21-21	12685	16-20	42-45	84191	4-5	21-21
UK	10155	5-6	14-15	16500	4-5	12-13	80250	5-6	14-15
Switzerland	20883	80-82	233-222	10120	40-47	118-114	94223	80-82	233-222
Australia*	20891	10-16	55-58	22691	14-15	55-58	84223	10-16	55-58
Hong Kong	12783	53-52	240-243	77232	2-0	5-7	51316	53-52	240-243
Malaysia	41739	0-0	0-0	23268	27-30	80-85	16756	0-0	0-0
New Zealand	23270	64-71	155-160	14076	54-56	57-59	80252	64-71	155-160
Saudi Arabia	62004	0-0	0-0	37505	1-4	5-8	80252	0-0	0-0
Singapore	23172	0-0	0-0	14077	24-19	70-85	80302	0-0	0-0

### Other Spot Rates

Country	Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	Australia	05998	10000	Nigeria	13315	80500	Portugal	16271	10000
Austria	Austria	175283	10000	Oman	08636	10000	Pakistan	62761	10000
Brazil	Brazil	17034	10000	Palestine	05277	10000	Peru	62761	10000
China	China	13217	10000	Philippines	43525	10000	Poland	62761	10000
Colombia	Colombia	5671	10000	Portugal	15277	10000	Portugal	62761	10000
Costa Rica	Costa Rica	20507	10000	Russia	08636	10000	Portugal	62761	10000
Greece	Greece	26422	10000	Russia	08636	10000			

## Dettori's feeling of 'emptiness'

Frankie Dettori yesterday admitted to a feeling of "emptiness", after achieving his ambition of riding all seven winners on the first day's card at Ascot's Festival of Racing on Saturday.

The jockey told of a magazine feature which had been compiled about him in which he was asked "what would be your ideal day".

"I said 'going through the card and it was funny because a couple of weeks later I actually went through the card,'" Dettori said in an interview on Radio 5 Live.

"And I had this kind of feeling of emptiness when I went home that day because, usually, when I come home from a race meeting, there are always one or two races where you think 'well if I did this or that, perhaps I could have changed things a little bit'."

"But it was the only day in my career when I did everything perfect, so I felt, really, kind of empty. I didn't know what to do."

Dettori's new ambition is to win the Derby. "At the end of the day, if I don't win the Derby by myself, I'm not going to kill myself but it's the race



Dettori: wants Derby win

that is missing in my record and it's probably the race I would most want to win right now."

Dettori also talked about living, as a youngster, in the shadow of his father, the Italian champion jockey Gianfranco Dettori.

"I was very overshadowed by my dad's doing and it's funny, but it wasn't until I left home at 14 that my real character, my real personality came up and in a way I look back and think 'if I had stayed at home, would I be in this position now?'

"And I would say no because my parents were so intimidating and so strong that I don't think I would have even been able to come out of my shell."

When Dettori left home he came to England and under the wing of the leading Newmarket trainer and fellow Italian, Luca Cumani.

The ex-champion admits that Cumani taught him a lot about racing in his eight years at the Bedford House yard.

"I owe a lot to him, he took time to teach me a lot of things, discipline, riding."

But it was a relationship which was to turn sour... "I was having some success and obviously me and him too couldn't

handle the situation and the riding wasn't my No 1 priority anymore. I was getting a little bit of money, I was getting a little bit successful and I just went off the rails."

Going off the rails led to a brush with the law for the young Dettori.

"It's common knowledge that four years ago I got caught by the police and I had a small quantity of cocaine. I got cautioned by the police, not charged.

"It was the best thing that could have happened to me. It gave me a good kick up the backside."

"I had to stop acting like a prat and grow up. It was time to mature and do what you are supposed to do - which in my case was to go out there and show my natural talent and ride horses."

The fuzzy nature of the rules governing disputes between backers and bookmakers was highlighted once again yesterday when the *Sporting Life's* Green Seal Service, a long-established but unaccountable panel of arbitrators, decided that Coral were justified in refusing to pay Terry O'Callaghan, a Cardiff punter, the £259,200 he believes he is owed as his return on a football bet placed on 10 September.

Though the argument between O'Callaghan and Coral centres on sports betting rather than racing, it is still one which should be of concern to anyone who ever places a bet.

The problem with O'Callaghan's coupon is that Ron Chivers, the manager of the Cardiff betting shop where he placed his bet, did not pass it through a security camera, which is designed to ensure that blank slips are not timestamped and then filled once the result of an event is known.

Coral did not suggest that O'Callaghan and Chivers colluded or plotted to defraud the company in any way, but none the less argued that its rules, which state that the firm "reserves the right to declare void any betting slip with whose bonafides we are not satisfied", allowed it to refuse payment.

It has been an objective of

## Bets row rumbles on

**Greg Wood on a dispute between a punter and a top bookmaker**

The *Life's* Green Seal Service, the membership of which remains anonymous, agreed.

The National Association for the Protection of Punters, the only organisation devoted solely to the campaign for backers' rights, reacted to the decision with anger and disappointment.

"The service seems to be set up entirely to interpret the bookmakers' rules without giving any thought to whether those are actually fair," Steve High, a NAPP spokesman, said.

"It's completely one-sided, it's unaccountable and it doesn't have any teeth anyway, because even if they had found against Coral, they are under no obligation to pay up. There was no suggestion of any collusion, they just seem to have found a reason for not paying."

Trevor Beaumont, Coral's trading director, said yesterday that "if the rules were not fair, I think we would have more problems, and they are very much the norm in the industry. We are following up certain issues, a process which might be finished tomorrow, next week or

next month, but I am not prepared to review this any further in the press. As far as we are concerned, the matter is closed."

As far as Terry O'Callaghan is concerned, however, it is anything but. British law still clings to the quaint notion that a gentleman's word is his bond and that gambling disputes are not a matter for the courts, but O'Callaghan intends to pursue a slightly different tack.

"I will see my barrister in the morning," he said yesterday,

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: Celtic Silver  
(Towcester 1.50)  
NB: Just Louie  
(Lingfield 2.40)

"and we will definitely be going down the legal route. We believe Coral breached their duty of care and that they processed the bet without due diligence."

O'Callaghan's argument is, in effect, that he should not be made to pay for an error by Coral. How far it will get him, anyone's guess, but the case highlights the manifest flaws of the present situation for resolving differences, every punter in Britain will owe a debt of gratitude.

"It has been an objective of

NAPP for a long time that there should be an independent betting ombudsman," High said.

"This is roughly a £6bn industry, and it is something which works very well in areas like banking and insurance. The ombudsman could be funded by the Levy Board, which after all deals with money collected entirely from punters, and could publish an annual report highlighting significant cases, explaining why rulings were made and showing how they might be applied in the future."

"It would benefit the whole industry as well as the punters, who just don't know where they are at the moment. They will lose faith in the system and before you know it they will be off betting on the National Lottery instead."

Until a more open and accountable system is in place, the clear advice for punters is to make absolutely sure that their slip has passed through the camera.

■ Ladbrokes have cut Addington Boy to 6-1 from 7 and Kibbereet, from 8-1 to 7-1 for Saturday's Murphy's Gold Cup. On the drift were Dublin Flyer (13-2 from 6-1), Call It Day (11-1 from 10-1) and Absalom's Lady (12-1 from 10-1).

Marsh has called up the 25-year-old Jeremy Allen, a seamer who has already represented Western Australia at state level, and the 23-year-old Shawn Craig, a left-handed opener who scored a century against the Academy for Victoria 2nd XI last season, into his side after claiming his current crop are weaker than previous years.

England will not name their side until the manager, David Graveney, the coach, Mike Gatting, and the captain, Adam Hollioake, have inspected the pitch, which is in an extinct volcano, after being prevented from doing so yesterday by overnight rain. Jason Gallian has recovered from a hand injury while Dean Headley may be rested.

■ Don Kenyon, 72, Worcestershire's first County Championship winning captain, has died in hospital after being taken ill at a function at New Road, Kenyon, who played eight Tests for England, had been attending a members' cricket evening to show a film of a world tour undertaken by the club during his playing days.

Obituary, page 16

## Standbridge on board with Conner

**STUART ALEXANDER**

Having made protracted attempts to organise his own British challenge for 1997-98, the four-times Whitbread veteran Paul Standbridge is to join Dennis Conner's American Toshiba Challenge as watch captain for Chris Dickson.

Standbridge joins the Australian navigator Andrew Cape and expects two more senior appointments in the near future.

Conner's Bruce Farr-designed yacht is being built in the United States. The deck is already under construction but work on the hull will be delayed as long as possible to incorporate late modifications to the design and ideas.

Dickson was close to winning the 1993-94 race at his first attempt until being dismasted on the leg from Uruguay to Fort Lauderdale. As the race was then calculated on total elapsed time, his chances immediately evaporated. In 1997-98 each leg will count separately to a points-based result.

The eight yachts in the Clipper '96 race organised by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston for fare-paying crews, are expected to finish their transatlantic leg from Madeira for Fort Lauderdale over the next 24 hours led by Aric, skippered by Raz Turner.

Yves Parlier's radically designed Aqualuna, Innovations continues to lead the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world race from Isabelle Autissier and Herve Laurent.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

**Football**

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: West Bromwich v Shrewsbury Town.

FA CUP First round: Charlton v Ave.

FRIENDLY: Dover v Crystal Palace (7.45).

**Other sports**

BADMINTON: England v China (Badm.).

CRICKET: Innovations v Gainsborough (Gainsborough).

NETBALL: Guardian Direct Netball (Tottenham).

SWIMMING: 34th Commonwealth Games, 3-12 December, Edinburgh.

TABLE TENNIS: 34th Commonwealth Games, 3-12 December, Edinburgh.

TOP GOLF: 3rd Annual Top Golf, 1-3 December, London.

WATER POLO: 1996 Commonwealth Games, 3-12 December, Edinburgh.

## sport

# Most, including the majority in boxing, were convinced Tyson would overwhelm Holyfield and possibly put him in hospital

A good question about Evander Holyfield's quite sensational defeat of Mike Tyson in Las Vegas last week to become a three-times world heavyweight champion is why was he almost completely written off in predictions.

On the basis that anything can happen when heavyweights are in the ring, caution was advised here and there, but most people, including the majority in boxing, were convinced that Tyson would overwhelm the challenger and possibly put him in hospital.

Of 48 reporters, myself included, polled by a Las Vegas newspaper only Ron Borges of the *Boston Globe* made out a case for Holyfield, predicting that he would win in the ninth round. If not spot on, this

brought Borges a great deal of attention.

Borges – he bet \$200 (£125) on Holyfield at 12-1 – unlike some seekers of notoriety I have known, didn't take what is known in the trade as a fier. Importantly, his faith in Holyfield sprang entirely from the application of logic. First, Holyfield's immense will; then the fact that he had knocked over much larger men than Tyson who had not been struck seriously since renewing his career in the ring. Borges also took into account the confidence he sensed when in conversation with the challenger. "The more I thought about it, the more I listened to Holyfield and his people, the more obvious his chances became," Borges said.

I am no less experienced than Borges in these matters but logic led me and many others up a different alley. For example, Mickey Duff, in last week's *Boxing News*, said, "It's an easy fight for Tyson and will last a maximum of four rounds, probably less. There's no contest. It's a complete and total mismatch." Naseem Hamed's trainer, Brendan Ingle, was no less adamant in announcement of a bad night for Holyfield. "Tyson will destroy him," Ingle said. "He'll bash Holyfield up in about two rounds. It won't go past three. There's no way Holyfield can win, not a cat in hell's chance. I just can't see it. Holyfield is made for Tyson."

You can go on and on like this. Some left a little room for doubt –



KEN JONES

any man alive, were unequivocal in their belief that Holyfield would be battered senseless. "I really did feel that Evander was taking an awful chance," Futch admitted.

Why? Well, logic of course. There was Holyfield's age, 34, and the knowledge that he is an artificially enlarged heavyweight who underwent tests for a heart condition in May 1994 after losing the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles to Michael Moorer. Since then Holyfield, particularly when struggling to a technical knock-out over the limited Bobby Czyz, had done nothing that argued against the advisability of retirement. As Holyfield was required to visit the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota before being allowed to

challenge Tyson, and at least one member of the Nevada Athletic Commission's medical panel spoke out against the contest, no hope could be held out for the challenger. Taking everything into account, three rounds was the most he could be given.

That the majority of us got it wrong recalls the amazing record that an American boxing writer, the late Bob Waters of *Newsday*, had when going against the odds put up for heavyweight championship bouts. Waters, a former amateur middleweight who once fought an exhibition bout against the great middleweight Tony Zale and drank the most vicious dry martinis imaginable, was one of the few to predict a victory for the young braggart

Cassius Clay against Sonny Liston. He correctly forecast the outcome of three contests between Floyd Patterson and Ingemar Johansson as well as George Foreman over Joe Frazier.

Before it became a strain – "if I'm wrong my editors complain and put it down to drinking" – Waters was one of only two writers (the *Sun's* boxing writer, Colin Hart, shares the distinction) to predict that Muhammad Ali would defeat Furey in Zaire. Typically, instead of returning home in triumph Waters, terrific newspaperman, went off to report on a famine.

Waters' advice was to always think logically about boxing. Would I, wonder, have picked Holyfield over Tyson?

## Proof that money dulls the passion

**Mike Rowbottom** analyses the findings of the biggest-ever football supporters' survey

The largest-ever survey of football fans in this country confirms that the habits of those watching the domestic game are evolving in parallel with those changes taking place on the pitch.

The third FA Premier League Fan Survey, released yesterday, gained 20,470 responses to 58,000 questionnaires, of which 17,214 came from season-ticket holders.

Football, on this evidence, still has a crucial importance for many supporters – one in four described it as "one of the most important things in my life". But there is an indication that some of the followers are becoming increasingly semi-detached – passing giving way to leisure.

Among supporters earning £10,000 per year or less, three out of four said football-watching was "one of the most important things in my life". Of those earning £30,000 or more, a small majority described it "just another thing that I do".

The survey also identified a number of better-paid fans who were using a season ticket as a cushion, knowing there would be a press for certain matches.

"They may want to see as few as 12 or 13 home games, where they can be sure of seeing Villa or Manchester United," said the report's author, John Williams of the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football

Research. "It does have the effect of excluding other types of supporters who might have attended on an *ad hoc* basis. Clubs seem to be focusing on a lucrative section of the population," Williams said. "But I have no doubt there is a section of supporters who don't connect with football clubs as their parents did."

Rick Parry, the Premier League's chief executive, acknowledged the "potential danger" of undercutting the fan base. "But," he said, "I don't think clubs will be depressed about their increasing numbers of affluent supporters."

New ticketing and seating arrangements at clubs have affected the naturally occurring social divisions within crowds. Whereas previously those who wanted to let off steam and bad language might congregate behind the goals, they are now being obliged to sit alongside others for whom such activity was distressing.

Williams pointed out that issues such as bad language were a major concern for many supporters, but that opinion was sharply divided on the topic, with some objecting to it and others complaining that stewards and police interfere too much.

While ruling out the likelihood of establishing "optional offensive language areas", Par-



Plenty to cheer: But is football becoming just a leisure pastime rather than a way of life?

Photograph: Allsport

ry said the Premiership was looking at experimenting with "singeing areas". Accompanying band music, of the type Glenn Hoddle is currently trying to encourage on England's behalf, is also seen as a positive option.

This year's figures point to the continuing absence of non-white, ethnic minorities from the ranks of spectators. Although the current national (1991 Census) figure for the population of non-white ethnic minority communities in Britain is just under five per cent, the 1996 sample reports just 1.1 per

cent non-white respondents in all and 0.9 per cent non-white season ticket holders. Arsenal lead the table, but even they only have 2.1 per cent non-white season ticket holders. At the other end of the league come Manchester City, Southampton (both 0.3 per cent), Blackburn (0.2) and Newcastle (0.1).

Blackburn Rovers seem to attract little local ethnic minority support, "the report said, "despite recent club successes and a substantial (mainly Asian) minority community in the town, while Manchester City

also has a poor return here, especially given the multi-racial nature of the Moss Side area of the city in which the Maine Road ground is located.

"In this last case, poverty rather than ethnicity *per se* may be the stronger barrier to season ticket purchase, though it is also perhaps significant that City and Blackburn were two clubs in the Premier League to have few, or no, black players in their first team squads in 1995/96."

The number of female fans within the game remains, as last year, around one in eight, with

most season-ticket holders being found at Nottingham Forest, Coventry City, Sheffield Wednesday and Wimbledon.

The latter club turn out to have some intriguing characteristics. The Dons appear to be a club which many people adopt, rather than grow up with. They top the list in terms of new fans, who represent nearly 25 per cent of the sample. They also have the highest proportion of season ticket holders who attended university or polytechnic – 38.6 per cent, narrowly ahead of Manchester United.

John Beck was left "feeling empty" after his Lincoln City side were denied another Coca-Cola Cup giant-killing by Southampton's second-half fightback at Sinclair Bank on Tuesday night.

Beck's Third Division side who knocked out Manchester City in the second round, were given a ninth-minute lead by Gareth Ainsworth and had Southampton in trouble with their direct style. But just when it seemed that the second-half heroes of the Lincoln goalkeeper, Barry Richardson, would secure another famous scalp, Southampton scored a 75-minute penalty and Jim Magilton scored the equaliser.

Lincoln's stubborn resistance began to crumble and the substitute Gordon Watson pounced to put Southampton ahead six minutes from time. Eyal Berkovitch, the club's recent signing, added a third in the last minute and Lincoln's Cup run was over leaving Beck to ponder over what might have been.

Beck felt Chris Woods' fingertip save to keep out Gisbert Bos' header five minutes after Ainsworth's opener and Saints' penalty, awarded for Jason Barnett's trip on Egil Ostenstadt, had been the major turning points of the tie.

"If we had scored another when we were 1-0 up, and we had a few chances, they might have been dead and buried, but it wasn't to be," Beck said. "We didn't panic or change our style," Souness said. "We kept passing it and that's what got us the opportunities to get back into it."

"It would have been a difficult game for anyone coming here but I thought we handled it well."

"The danger, when you play these sort of games, is that you end up playing like them. It was important that we continued trying to pass the ball and we did."

"As the game went on they dropped off a bit and we came into it more. When their keeper saved Matt's (Le Tissier) free-kick I thought 'maybe it's going to be their night' but once we got the first goal I felt we'd go on to win it."

Southampton's victory has earned them another potentially awkward tie away to Oxford United.

## McFarland returns with Cambridge

Roy McFarland, the former England international, returned to management yesterday when it was announced that he has taken charge of Cambridge United. McFarland, who was capped 28 times by England, has signed an 18-month contract and is already preparing the Third Division promotion challenges for Saturday's FA Cup first-round tie against Welling.

McFarland had spells in charge of Derby (twice) and Bradford before taking Bolton into the Premiership. He left Burnden Park eight months ago. At Cambridge, he succeeds Tommy Taylor who left the Abbey Stadium to take over at Leyton Orient last week.

Reg Smart, the Cambridge chairman, revealed there were 36 applications for the job. "There were some interesting people among them, but we decided instead to approach three people we thought more suitable. We interviewed them all

yesterday and they were all very impressive. I would recommend the other two whom it wouldn't be right to name to any club, but Roy McFarland stood out as the man for this job."

Mike Newell's troubled career with Birmingham has hit a new low after he was sent off while making a comeback from injury in the reserves. The former England B international striker, who is on the transfer list at St Andrews after failing to settle following his £775,000 summer move from Blackburn, was dismissed for two bookable offences during Tuesday night's clash with Everton at Huddersfield.

The Birmingham manager, Trevor Francis, is set to continue his St Andrews clear-out by selling the former Leyton Orient and Plymouth midfielder Steve Castle, bought by Barry Fry for £125,000 in the 1995 close-season. Southend are believed to be interested.

## Strike plans recede

The threat of a strike by Nationwide League players is expected to be officially ended today. It is understood the Professional Footballers' Association have agreed a deal with the Football League which gives the union £1.2m a year for five years.

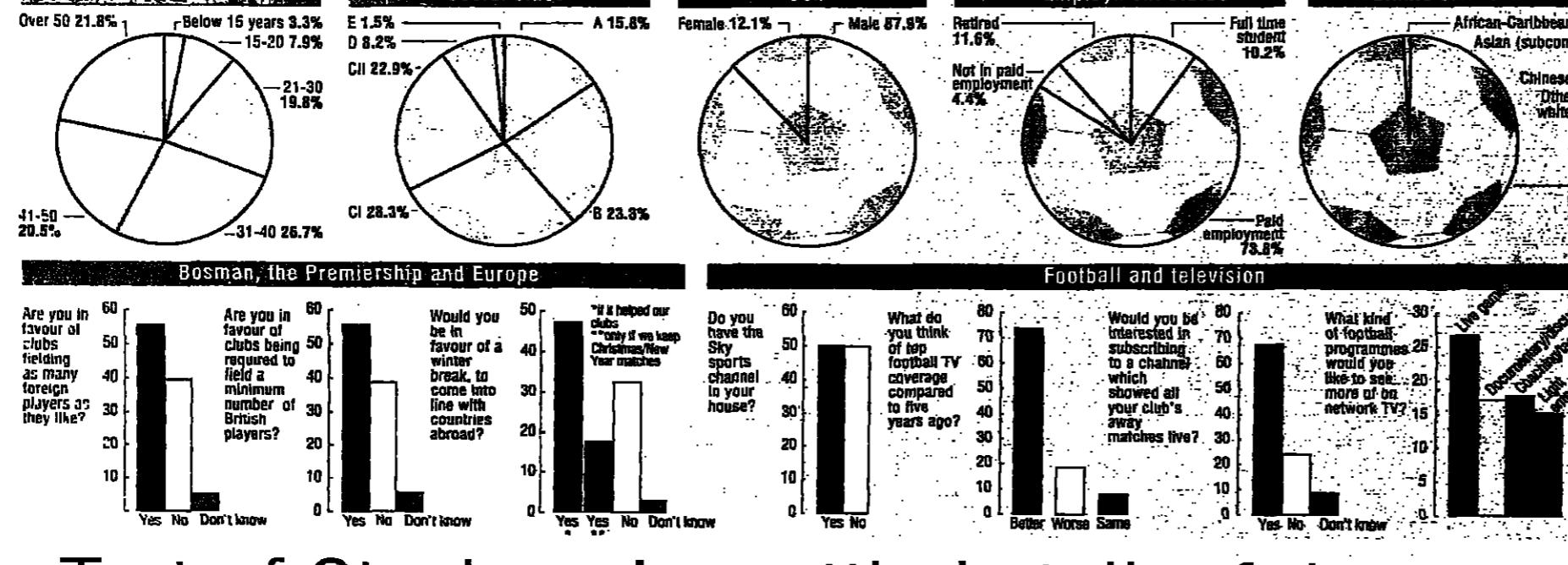
The strike threat loomed in the wake of the League's recent £125m deal with BSkyB, when clubs voted to scrap the long-running tradition of paying the PFA a 10 per cent levy from television screening rights.

The PFA chief executive, Gordon Taylor, initially demanded that the payment be restored, and players at all 72 Nationwide League clubs were balloted on whether they were

willing to take strike action. The result of that ballot – believed to show that the players were overwhelmingly in favour of industrial action – was to be announced on 19 October.

At the last minute, however, Taylor delayed making the results public. That brought the chance of more negotiations, and those have clearly been successful.

In addition to the up-front annual payment – more than doubling last year's £560,000 PFA income figure – it is believed extra funding will be provided to the union for use on mutually agreed projects. But while it is unlikely clubs will rock the boat at this late stage, the deal still has to be ratified today.



## Test of Steelmen's mettle is talk of the toon



Consett, thankfully, is not quite the town that time forgot. It is, however, the town that Kenneth Clarke forgot.

Interviewed by BBC Radio Newcastle while on a fact-finding mission in the North-east last year, the Chancellor picked out the "thriving steelworks at Consett" as a shining example of the region's industrial success. In fact, the last batch of steel was produced in Consett on 6 September, 1980.

The main thrust of the vain fight to avert closure of the British Steel works, and the loss of some 8,000 jobs, was that Consett, 14 miles south of Newcastle in north-west Durham, would become a ghost town. How fitting it is then that evidence that Consett remains alive and as

surely kicking will be found this Saturday in Nottinghamshire, the same county in which the Chancellor's West Bridgford constituency happens to lie.

Consett AFC, members of the Federation Premier League, have reached the first round proper of the FA Cup for only the second time in their 97-year history (they were hammered 5-0 at Doncaster in 1958). And their unexpected success has created such a stir Consett could indeed be a ghost town for one day this weekend.

That particular irony is not lost on Colli Carr, PE teacher at the town's Blackfynne Comprehensive and Consett's manager. Carr, who spent his playing days as a centre-half in the Wearside League with Anfield Plain, has become accustomed to home crowds barely touching the 100 mark: by all accounts there could be 10

surely kicking will be found this Saturday in Nottinghamshire, the same county in which the Chancellor's West Bridgford constituency happens to lie.

Consett are a club in need of financial support is evident from even a cursory glance at the crumbling red-brick facade of Belle Vue Park, an appropriately named home if ever there was one. Up to stage any replay (that will be at Durham City, if required), it could be described as one of those non-League oases that makes a big difference.

"The gates go down again on midweek nights when Newcastle are live on television. Even on Saturdays there are places where you can watch the Norwegian television channel that shows Newcastle matches."

As a lifelong Newcastle fan himself, Carr does not begrudge the black and white polarisation of football viewing in and around his home town. He is merely grateful that support has

surpassed. This is their day. They deserve all the credit and support they get."

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# Rusedski forced to fight by Fox

## Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE  
reports from Telford

**Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, seeded to meet in the men's singles final on Sunday, both had to win opening sets on a tie-break before making progress in the Guardian Direct British National Championships at Telford yesterday.**

Rusedski beat James Fox, the 21-year-old Lincolnshire player, 7-6, 6-4 in the first round after surviving a set point in the tie-break before making progress in the Guardian Direct British National Championships at Telford yesterday.

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Then Baglin led 3-2 in the shoot-out with two services to come before Henman buckled down to win it 7-4.

The second set was all one way until Henman led 5-0. But in the sixth game, on Henman's service, Baglin had six break points and Henman had three match points before the Cheshire player hit a backhand return out of court to end the contest after 75 minutes.

Henman praised Baglin's display. "He played a really good first set and I just squeezed home in the tie-breaker. But I shall have to focus more later in the week."

The only shock in the men's singles was provided by Paul Robinson, the 22-year-old Northampton left-hander who beat fourth seeded Danny Sapsford, of Surrey, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the first round.

The Florida-based Megan Miller, the fourth seed from Yorkshire, and Emily Bond, the sixth seed from Gloucestershire, were both beaten.

Miller won 7-5, 6-2 to the British junior champion, Louise Lalmer, from Sutton Coldfield while Bond lost 2-6, 6-4, 8-6 to Heather Matthews of Reading.

Then Fox, 0-40 down in the following game, saved four set points before making it 5-5, and, in the tie-breaker, led 6-5 to hold a set point himself.

Rusedski missed his first serve in the following rally but came in behind his second to smash a winner and save the day before taking the next two points, clinching the set with a backhand volley.

Fox never stopped trying but Rusedski broke through in the seventh game of the second set and that one break was enough to allow him to go on to victory in 75 minutes.

Later Rusedski said that, despite the score, he had never been troubled. "James played awfully well on the big points."

## Basuki fired up

The Indonesian Yavuk Basuki, a late entry in the Advanta Championships, used her experience to beat the young Russian Anna Kournikova 6-1, 7-6 in their first-round match on Tuesday. The 15-year-old Kournikova, a former world No 1 junior, is ranked 50th. Basuki 35rd.

Basuki was inserted into the draw only after Jennifer Capriati withdrew two days before the tournament started. "I don't feel I played very well, but I have a little more experience than her," Basuki said. "She's young, and sometimes I don't think she can keep [hold of] her emotions. But she has a great future."

In Tuesday's only match involving a seeded player, the No 6, Iva Majoli of Croatia, defeated Judith Wiesner of Austria

6-2, 6-2 in a first-round match.

Majoli got two early service breaks in each set to earn a second-round meeting with the American Chanda Rubin.

In another first-round match, Lisa Raymond defeated her fellow American Gigi Fernandez 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. The 35th-ranked Raymond, who won her first WTA Tour title last month, will face the second seed, Conchita Martinez of Spain, in the second round.

The world No 10, Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands, withdrew from the tournament on Tuesday after aggravating a thigh strain suffered last week at the Bank of the West Classic in Oakland. Her place in the draw will be taken by the American Lori McNeil.

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Basuki was inserted into the draw only after Jennifer Capriati withdrew two days before the tournament started. "I don't feel I played very well, but I have a little more experience than her," Basuki said. "She's young, and sometimes I don't think she can keep [hold of] her emotions. But she has a great future."

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